FOOTROT FLATS

ONE

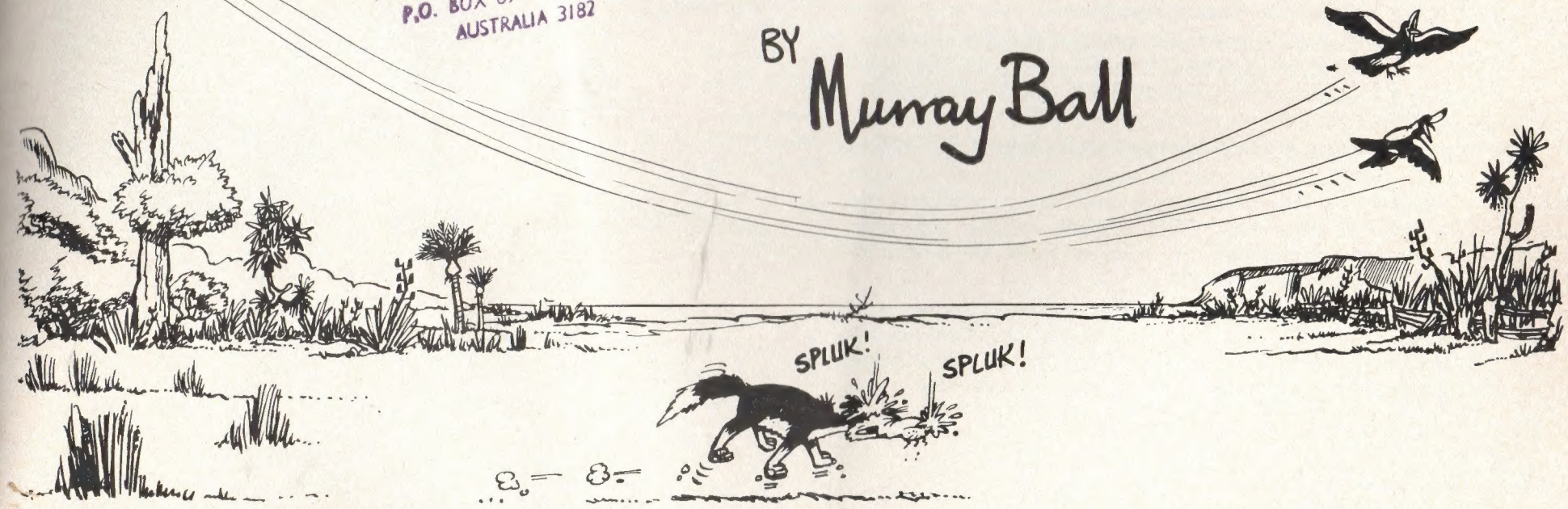
BY

Murray Ball

FOOTROT FLATS one

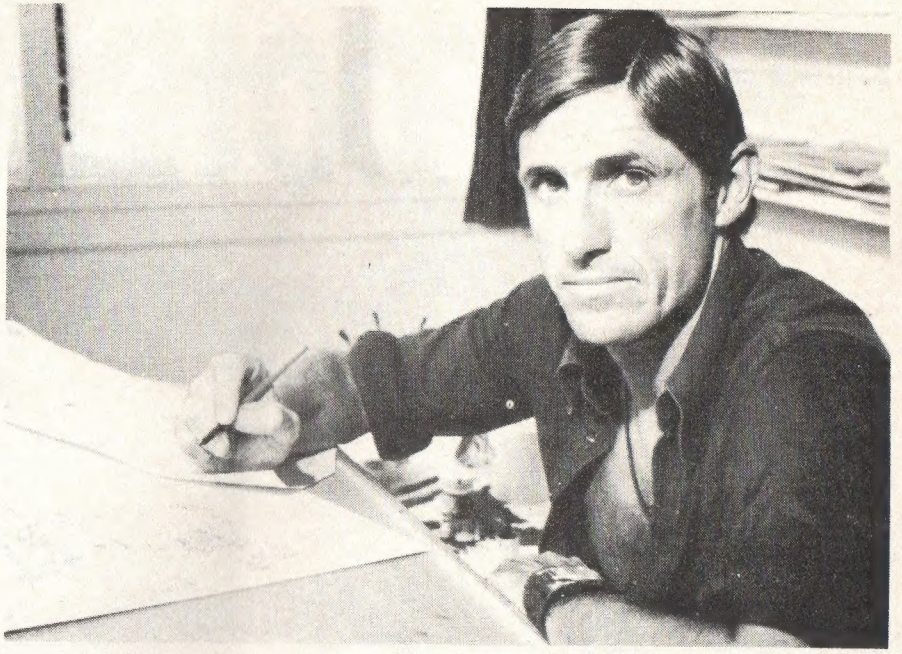
INTER CONTINENTAL FEATURES
P.O. BOX 89 ST. KILDA W. VIC.
AUSTRALIA 3182

BY Murray Ball



ORIN BOOKS

MURRAY BALL



Born Feilding 1939

Educated in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

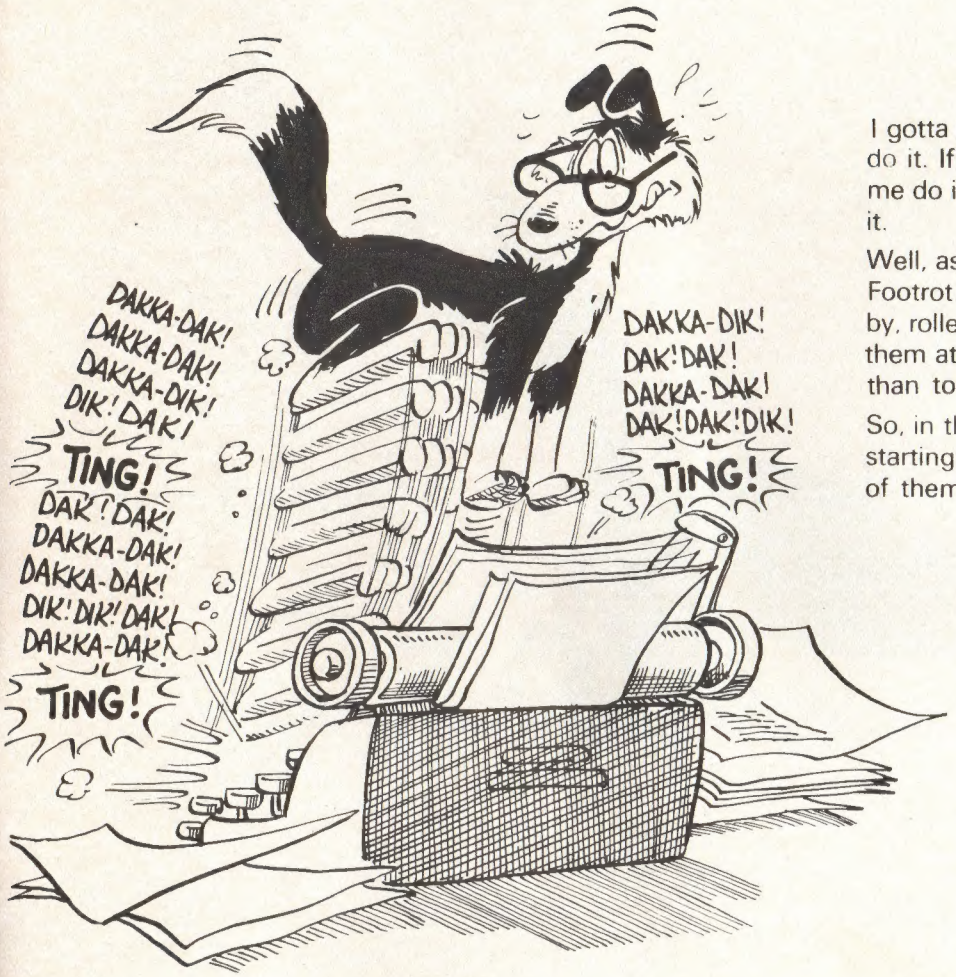
Ex Junior All Black, N.Z. trialist, journalist, menswear salesman, dodgem car attendant, freezing worker, amateur farm hand, coin machine operator, author and school teacher.
Spent five years in Britain during which time he drew freelance cartoons, illustrated children's comics and drew a regular cartoon feature "Stanley" for "Punch" magazine.

Returned to New Zealand and now runs a cow, calf, three ewes, a ram, five lambs, a flock of hens, a rooster, some ducks, two geese, two cats, a multitude of insects and three children on his four-acre ranch in Gisborne.

In this he is aided by his wife Pam, who is English and does the odd jobs like looking after the house, keeping the accounts, controlling the kids, feeding the animals, ruling up his drawings, rubbing out pencil lines, filing, cooking, digging the garden, planting the vegetables and worrying about the lambs. She refuses to mow the lawns.

At present he is drawing "Footrot Flats" daily and Sunday, which appears in over 70 newspapers and magazines around Australia and New Zealand; and "Stanley" which appears in the Sydney "Sun Herald", and "Listener", Wellington, New Zealand.

Likes Greek music and spaghetti with red wine.



I gotta hand it to Wal, he isn't pushy. Nope, if there's a bull to be moved, he lets me do it. If someone has to have first taste of Cooch's toad and enunga fritters, he lets me do it. If there's a book to be started and there's footy on television, he lets me do it.

Well, as it happens, he has got just the right joker for the job. I happen to know the Footrot Flat weirdos better than most. I have ridden on, fallen under, been trampled by, rolled over and been butted, kicked, savaged, licked, pecked or hurled by most of them at one time or another. And there is no better way of getting to know a person than to have actually been inside their gumboot, I always think.

So, in the next few pages, I'm going to tell you a bit about the Footrot Flats mob—starting with probably the toughest, most powerful, interesting and yet most modest of them all . . .

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FOOTROT FLATS comic strip is now appearing daily in the Brisbane COURIER MAIL, Melbourne HERALD, Sydney DAILY MIRROR, Adelaide NEWS, Perth WEST AUSTRALIAN; Sydney SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, and many other newspapers around Australia too numerous to list individually.

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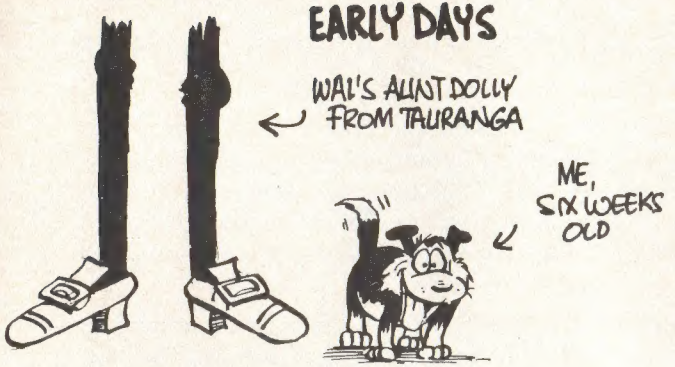
GUDDAY.

EARLY DAYS



BORN OCTOBER 13 AT DOLORES WASHBROOK'S HOLIDAY HOME FOR CATS.

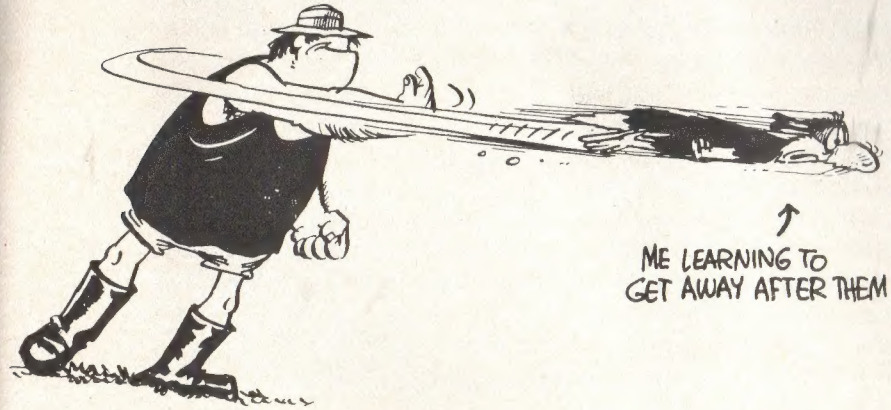
INTRODUCTION TO FARM LIFE

TRAINING TO BE AN EYE DOG

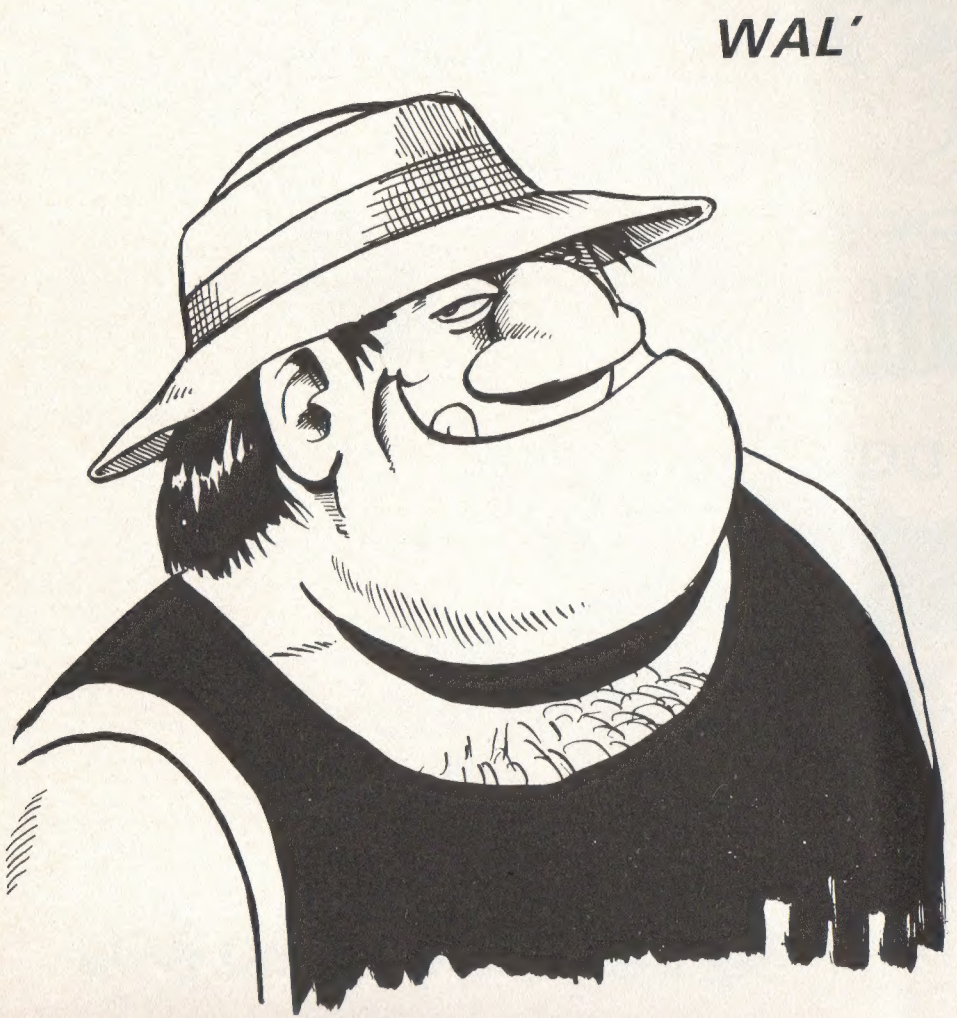
THE DOG

[A PICTORIAL HISTORY]

GAINING EXPERIENCE



MATURITY



WALLACE FOOTROT CADWALLADER

Born on 26th January in Northern Manawatu.

Educated at Apiti Primary School and later Foxton Agricultural High, where he excelled at tractor reversing and rooster imitations. Established an outstanding relationship with muscovy ducks—but unfortunately failed completely with geese. Indeed he seemed to have an uncanny knack of irritating them.

He took a full part in all school activities. Displayed a promising right cross during his time in the front row of the 2nd XV, but was unable to transfer this ability to the boxing ring. He rather let the side down during the inter-school championships by throwing in the sponge which knocked the referee's glasses crooked. He was disqualified.

On leaving school, he acquired 400 acres of swamp between the Ureweras and the sea.

He is unmarried, although he has an interest in a certain Darlene (Cheeky) Hobson who works in the Ladies Hairdressers at Raupo (pop. 406).

He is a stalwart of the local rugby football team. He was a moving force in formalising the law that football boots will be worn only when more than 60 percent of both sides has a pair.

A good-humoured fellow who smiles readily. (The last time was when Cooch got his arm caught down a rabbit burrow while trying to rescue a rabbit. He laughed aloud when the rabbit bit Cooch. That was in 1974).

He has relations all over New Zealand. As a matter of fact he got me from his Aunty Dolly in Tauranga. She is a terrible woman. She attended a Royal Garden Party on a trip to London and has never recovered from the honour of treading in Corgi droppings under a Rhododendron bush. Her shoe is kept in a glass box on her colour television set. She named me.

COOCH WINDGRASS

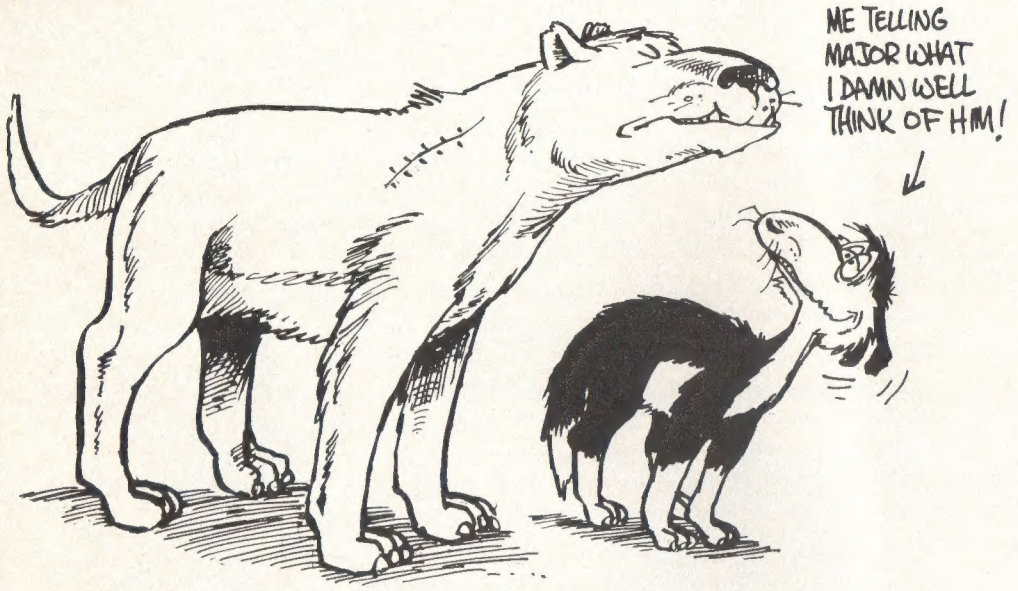
Wal's mate, neighbour and right hand man. A beauty bloke—ask any possum, deer, rabbit, magpie or weta. The only joker I know who'd give his Jacky Howe to a slug with a sniffle.

He keeps goats and blackberry. He has a cabbage tree growing up through his verandah floor. The roots of a Puriri have pushed his house crooked. You have to climb up the floors in some places and jog down the slope in others.

The most violent act I ever saw him commit, was to spit a codlin moth from his apple out of the window.

Mind you, he's not a vegetarian. He does kill to eat. His eel and puffball stew is an acquired taste, as is his huhu grub, puha and chips. A native of the 'Flats'—his family owns two thousand acres of swamp, tussock, scrub, forest and mudflat. Wal reckons it's a crime that they don't bulldoze it flat and farm sheep instead of pipis and paua. But I reckon he's got a soft spot for old Cooch—like the rest of us.

He can catch flounder with his bare feet.



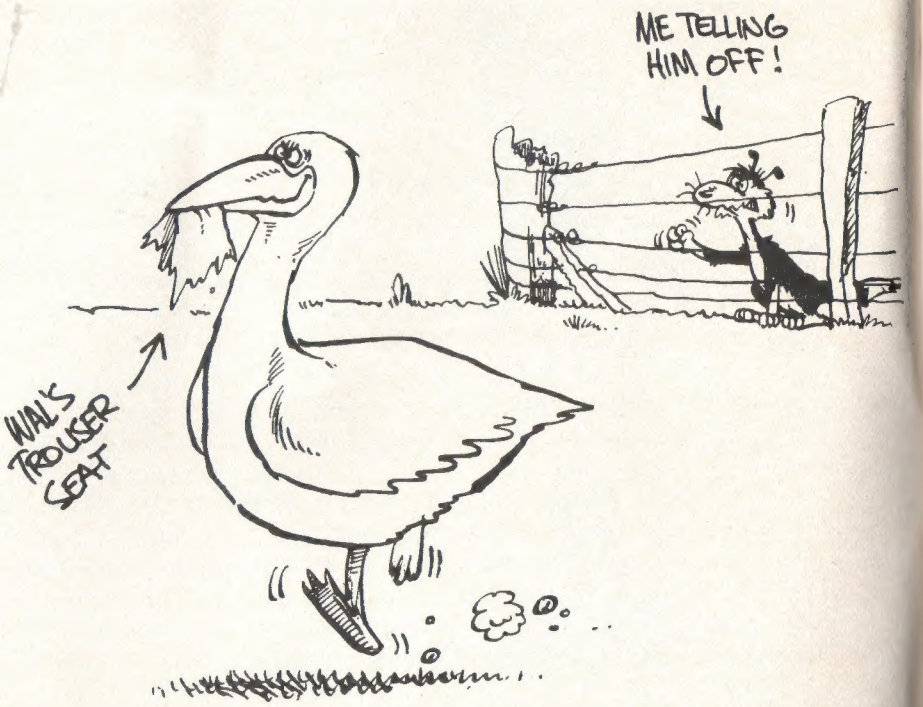
MAJOR

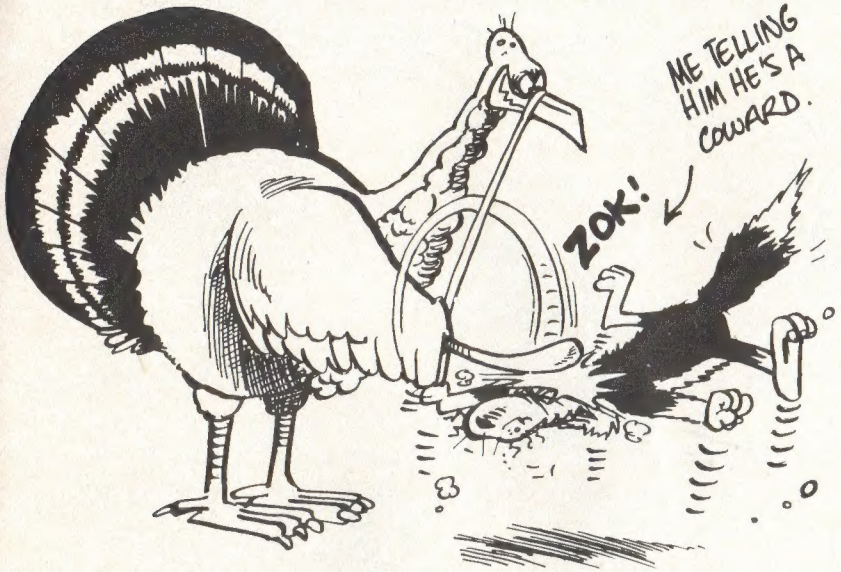
Wal's pig dog. Thinks he's a big wheel. Just because he's tough, strong, brave, courageous and brainy, he thinks he's better than the rest of us. Well, I'm going to show him one day. I'm working on being as brainy as him at the moment—and that tells me I shouldn't rush things. But he just better watch it, that's all!

THE GOOSE

Wal hates the goose. The goose seems to quite like Wal because it is always having a piece of him.

I get on all right with the goose. I don't get in its way and it doesn't get in my way if I see it coming in time.





THE TURKEY

My main enemy. A Bully. And like all bullies, a coward. One day I'm going to stand up to him, grab that red dangly thing on his beak and sock him right between the eyes with it. That'll show him up for the coward he is.

When I get older—after Christmas, maybe . . .

THE GOAT

Wal got him to keep the grass down. But he doesn't seem to like grass. He seems to prefer to keep the fruit trees, Wal's footy socks and Wal down.

I'm not going to say too much here as the cunning old sod is sharp enough to read it.

I HATE GETTIN' THE SHEEP INTO THE CATCHIN' PENS!
WHERE'S THAT FLAMIN' DOG?
SPEAK UP DOG!
CROAK! HELP!
AW, C'MERE YA POOR, OLD MUTT...

GET IN BEHIND YA BOW-LEGGED BLACK BRUTE!
YOU'RE ALWAYS BELLY-ACHIN' AT THE DOG WAL' - HE'LL HAVE YOUR JUGULAR ONE NIGHT IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL.
NAH, SHE'LL BE RIGHT COOCH.
Y' SEE? HE LOVES ME...
BREAK, DAMN YOU LEG, BREAK!
SQUEEZE!
SQUASH!
CRUSH!
OKAY OLD GIRL, WE'LL SOON MAKE A MUM OUT OF YA...
©MURRAY BALL '76 FIFTS
GROOK!
B-LLURRK!
COLD HANDS...
Murray Ball.

YEP, SHE'S A GOOD LOOKIN' BULL ALL RIGHT WAL'.
YEAH...
...I RECKON HE'S FATHERED MORE GOOD'UNS THAN ANYTHIN' THIS SIDE OF THE RANGES!
EH?
MODESTY FORBIDS ME...
Murray Ball.
VROOM!
Murray Ball.
BRRRRR
I HATE THE CATTLE STOPS!

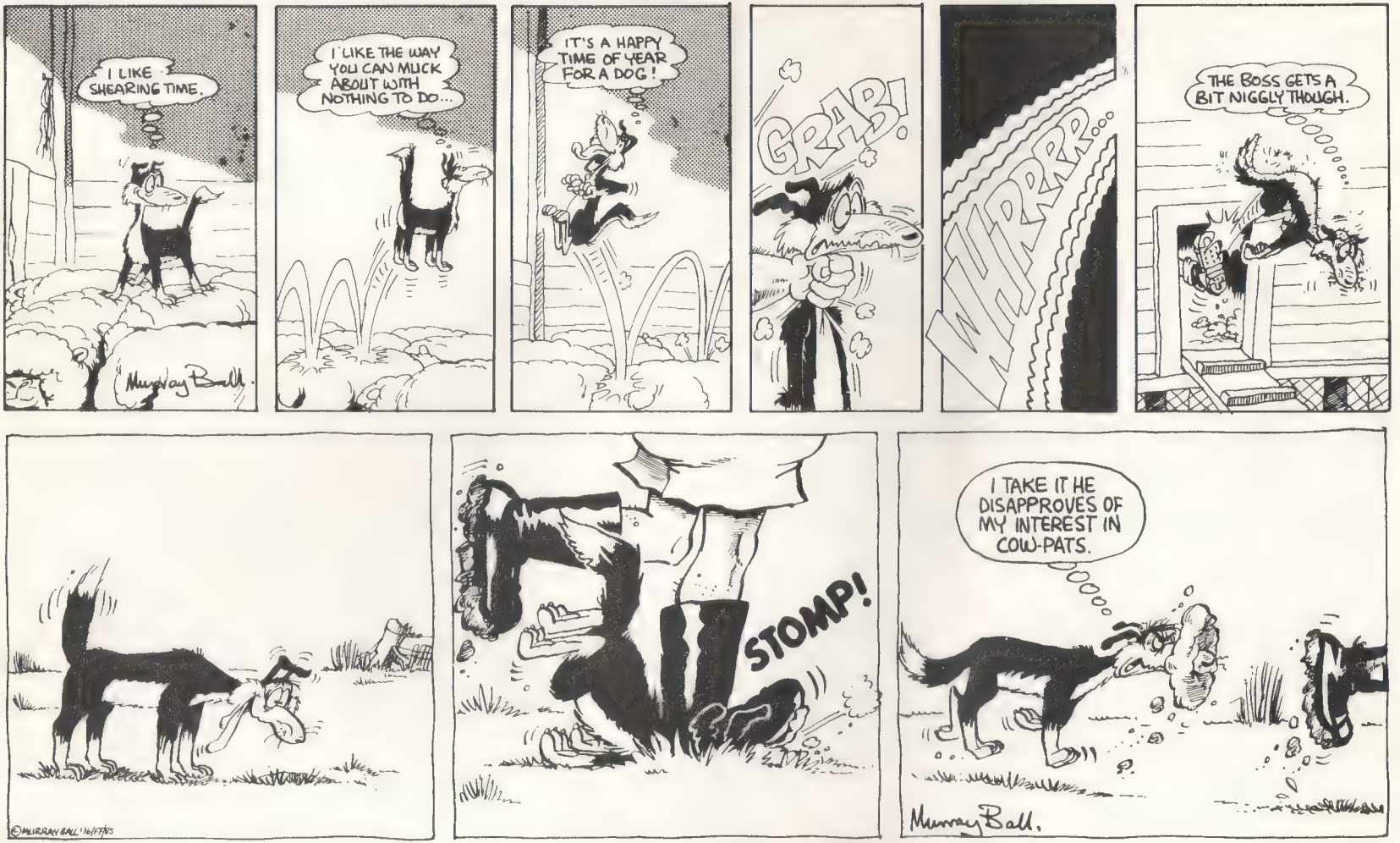
Murray Ball.
SHE'S RIGHT WAL', TAKE YOUR TIME — I'LL EYE HIM UNTIL YOU CAN GRAB TH' SCRAWNY SOD...
SKUD!
FUNNY, IT WORKS WITH THE SHEEP!
©MURRAY BALL '87 FFF&G
THIS IS IT! WHAT A WAY TO GO — TURKEY TUCKER!
Murray Ball.
ZAK!
MY HERO!
©MURRAY BALL '87 FFF&G

CRIPES, THIS WIND IS GETTING REALLY STRONG. I'LL JUST GET THIS MOB IN, THEN CALL IT A DAY...
Murray Ball.
OKAY, THAT'S IT...
COME IN DOG!
PEEP!
©MURRAY BALL 1976
COME IN DOG!
SWAK!
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND WAL'.
CRIPES, WHAT A MONSTER!
BOY THESE PIG-DOGS THINK THEY'RE REAL BIG SHOTS!
SNARL!
SO WHERE'S THE BIG DEAL PIG-DOG?
Murray Ball.

HEH HEH
THUD!
WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!
ZOOM!
WAAGH!
Murray Ball.
C'MERE Y'A MANGY MONGREL!
Murray Ball.
..WAIT 'TIL I GET MY HANDS ON YOU!
SKID!
HOP! HOP! HOP! HOP!
ZOOM!
YARGH!
CRASH
I DUNNO WHO INVENTED THOSE THINGS, BUT THEY SURE STOP THE BEGGARS!

CRASH!
HALP, I'VE COME OFF ME BIKE!
I SHOULD BE THAT LUCKY!
Murray Ball.
WAL'S TRYING TO BREAK IN THE NEW HOUSE-COW...
I S'POSE A DOG SHOULD GIVE TH' POOR OLD JOKER A HAND.
©MURRAY BALL 1976 1976
ZDOM!
GOOD ON YA DOG!
A DOG'S GOTTA DO WHAT HE'S GOTTA DO...
Murray Ball.

MMPH!
HSSSS
CHOMP!
©MURRAY BALL K76 FF/50
Murray Ball.
DOG!
GO FOR ITS THROAT DAMMIT DOG, GO FOR ITS THROAT!
NOW NOW WAL', WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN LITTLE BOGEYMEN...
I'LL FIX THE OLD GIRL WITH MY STEELY GAZE... THUS! SHE'S TOTALLY IN MY POWER!
©MURRAY BALL 1976
WHA...! WHA...! WHASSUP? WHASSUP?
SWAP! SWAP! SWAP!
HEH HEH! SOMEWHERE THERE'S AN OLD EWE WHO IS BUT PUTTY IN MY PAWS!
FF/40
Murray Ball.


I LIKE SHEARING TIME.
I LIKE THE WAY YOU CAN MUCK ABOUT WITH NOTHING TO DO...
IT'S A HAPPY TIME OF YEAR FOR A DOG!
GRAB!
WHRRRR...
THE BOSS GETS A BIT NIGGLY THOUGH.
STOMP!
I TAKE IT HE DISAPPROVES OF MY INTEREST IN COW-PATS.
Murray Ball.
©MURRAY BALL '16/1/85

WAL HAS HAD A LOT LESS TROUBLE MILKING THE COW SINCE HE STARTED TAKING MUSIC WITH HIM ON THE RADIO.
©MURRAY BALL '72 FF/73
OH OH...
NEWS BULLETIN!
Murray Ball
HEY COOCH, HOW COME YOU LOOK AFTER ALL THE RATBAG ANIMALS LIKE POSSUMS AND GOATS AND RABBITS?
Murray Ball
I DUNNO WAL' — SOME JOKER HAS GOT TO LOOK AFTER TH' SCRAG-ENDS EH?
YEH, BUT WITH YOUR MOB OF NOXIOUS MATES YOU MUST BE THE MOST UNPOPULAR JOKER THIS SIDE OF THE RANGES...
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT COOCHIE - THERE'S A DRY SACK AND A BONE FOR YOU IN MY KENNEL ANY DAY MATE!
©MURRAY BALL '72 FF/72

WHAP!
KLUD!
RIGHTO YA STROPPY SHEILA - YOU'VE ASKED FOR IT!
HOW COME EVERY TIME SOMEONE ASKS HIM FOR IT, IT'S ME WHO ENDS UP GIVING IT TO THEM?
Murray Ball.
ZANK!
A PROBLEM SHARED IS A PROBLEM HALVED, EH WAL'?

SLAM!
HA!
YEEAAGH!
Murray Ball.
SATURDAY AFTERNOONS HE'S AT MY MERCY!
THAT'LL DO FOR DOG-TUCKER FOR A WHILE.
I'LL JUST HOIST HER UP SO THE DOG CAN'T GET AT HER...
SHE'LL BE RIGHT UP THERE - EVEN OLD GARBAGE-GUTS CAN'T FLY!
LOVE HAS GIVEN ME WINGS...
Murray Ball.

WRIGGLE!
SCRUFFLE!
ECSTACY!
Murray Ball.
A DOG DOESN'T ASK FOR MUCH– A COW-PAT TO ROLL IN, A SMILE, A FRIENDLY WORD...
YA PONGIN' RATBAG!
... A TOWEL.
© MURRAY BALL '76 FF/44
I LIKE HELPING WAL GET THE BULLS INTO THE RACE...
ARF! ARF!
©MURRAY BALL '76 FF/61
Murray Ball.
"THE PERFECT ORGANISATION– MAN AND DOG WORKING AS EQUALS TO CONTROL BEASTS MUCH LARGER THAN EITHER OF THEM!
ARF! ARF!
SLAM!
WAL YA ROTTEN TRAITOR– I QUIT!

OH BOY! WAL IS GOING TO HALVE THE BEAST CARCASS...
THAT'S MY VERY FAVOURITE JOB!
WEE-OWW
HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE THIS.
Murray Ball.
C'MON COW, GET THROUGH THAT FLAMIN' GATE!
ARF! ARF!
ARF! ARF! ARF! ARF! ARF!
©MURRAY BALL
GO STRAIGHT YA SILLY OLD SOD!
PANT PANT
Murray Ball
MIDNIGHT COW-DOG...

COOCH!
COOCH, THERE'S A FLAMIN' GREAT KINK IN THE NEW FENCELINE!
YEH, I KNOW WAL'.
WHAT COULD I DO?
Z
GIT AWAY AROUND DOG!
THUD!
FLAMIN' WHITEBAIT!
Murray Ball.

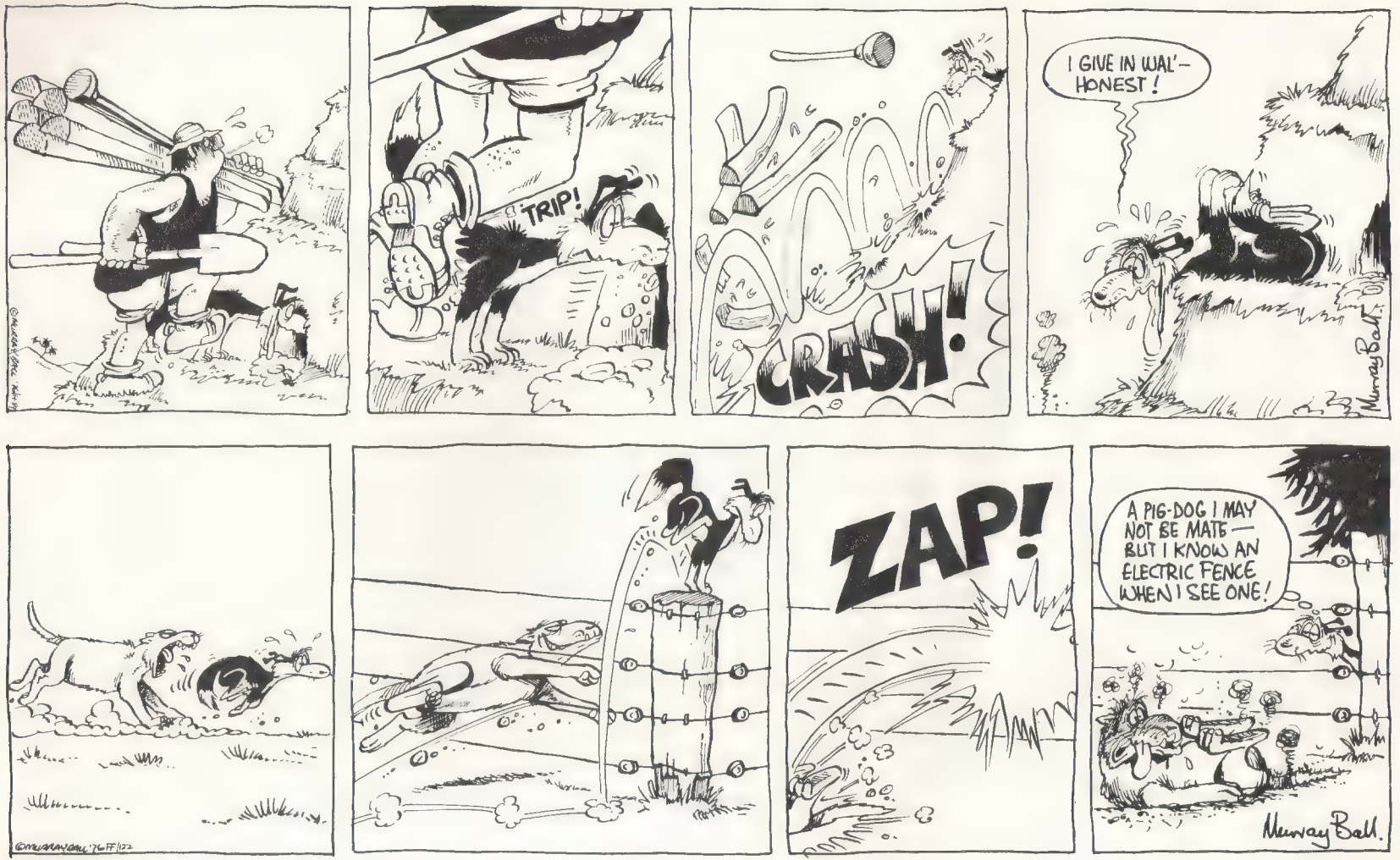
CRIPES, THE DOG MUST BE ON TO A PIG!
GROWL!
SCRUFFLE
SNARL!
GRRMPH!
© MURRAY BALL 76 FF 63
OKAY, HANG ON DOG, I'M COMIN'!
Murray Ball.
HANG ONTO HIM DOG, HANG ONTO HIM!
YEH, RIGHTO WAL, RIGHTO.
Murray Ball
ZOOM!
ZOOM!
© MURRAY BALL 1976
... WE'RE JUST GOOD FRIENDS.

JESS, THE BITCH IS JUST DOWN THE ROAD...
Murray Ball.
IT'S FUNNY HOW DOGS CAN SENSE IT...
...SOME CAN SMELL IT, OTHERS GET A TINGLING IN THEIR BONES...
DING! DONG! CLANG! BONG!
...PERSONALLY, I SEEM TO HEAR BELLS RINGING!
OH OH, THE GANDER IS WAITING AROUND THE CORNER TO HAVE A GO AT WAL!
Murray Ball.
I'M AFRAID THERE'S A DEFINITE YELLOW STREAK IN WAL'S NATURE SOMEWHERE..

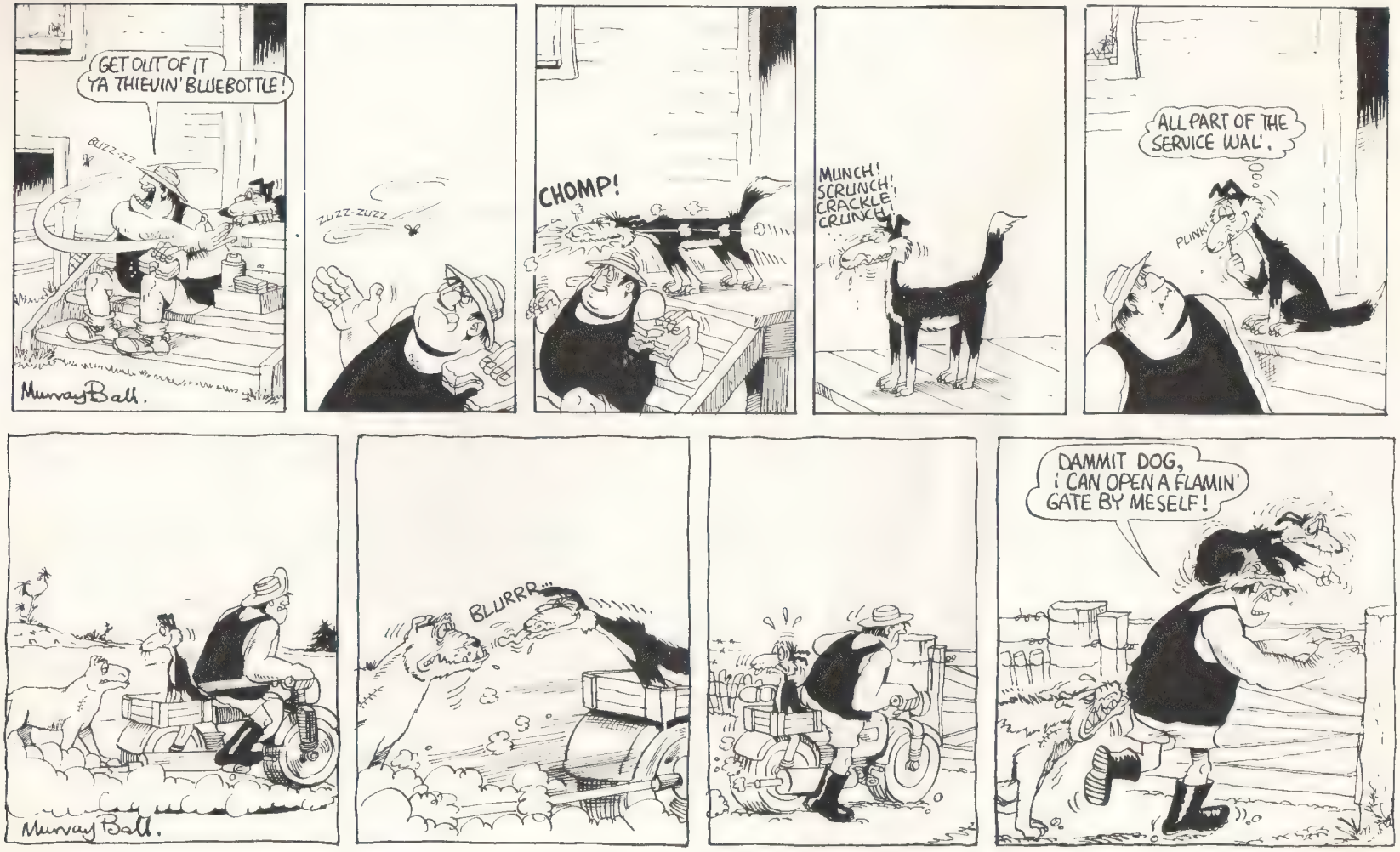
GET AFTER IT DOG!
ATTA BOY-GO IT! GO IT!
GOOD ON YA DOG, WE'LL MAKE A RATTER OF YOU YET!
RAT!
Murray Ball.
I'VE GOTTA LET COOCH KNOW HIS BILLY IS IN WAL'S ORCHARD BEFORE WAL FINDS OUT!
HURL!
WHIRRRR...
ZANK!
TOO LATE.

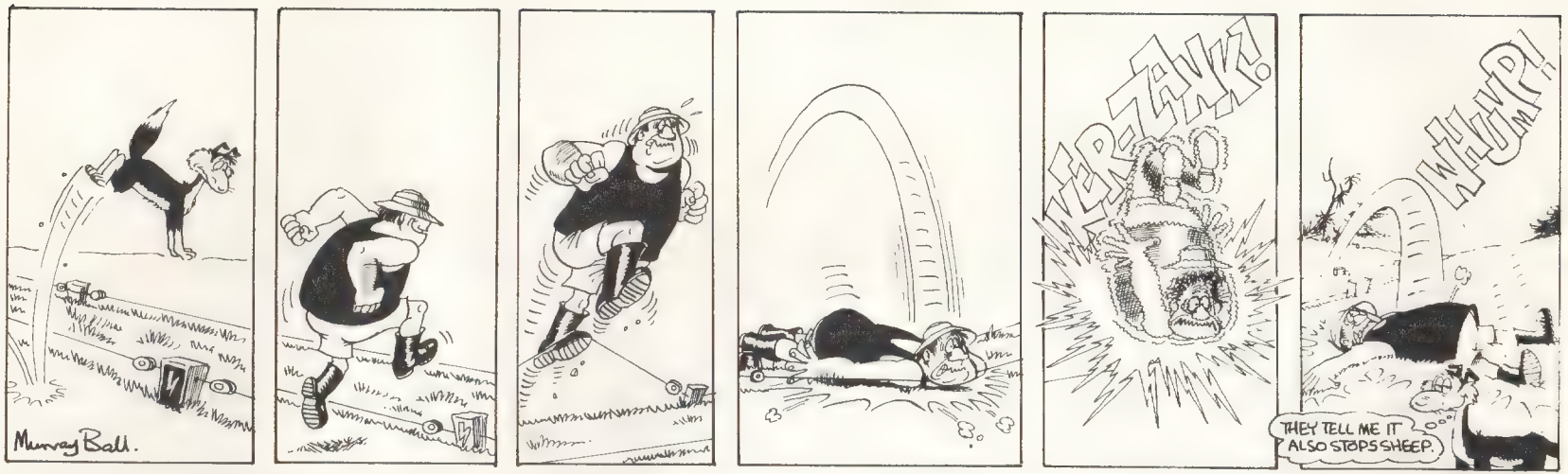
WHINE!
CRASH!
WAL' DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN FOR WE ENVIRONMENTALISTS!
Murray Ball.
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
PUT THAT IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT!
Murray Ball.

SHE'S RIGHT DOG, I TOLD COOCH TO DOCK THIS BULL LAST YEAR...
ZOWW!
SLIOP!
DAMN THAT SOFT-HEARTED COOCH!
SCIOP!
WAL AND COOCH ARE DRENCHING THE LAMBS...
THERE'S ALWAYS TROUBLE AT DRENCHING TIME OVER WHO IS GOING TO DO THE SQUIRTING...
MIND YOU YOU'D THINK THEY COULD JUST TOSS A COIN.


TRIP!
CRASH!
I GIVE IN WAL'– HONEST!
Murray Ball
ZAP!
A PIG-DOG I MAY NOT BE MATE— BUT I KNOW AN ELECTRIC FENCE WHEN I SEE ONE!
Murray Ball.

CRIPES, WAL' AND COOCH ARE SWIMMIN' TOO FAR OUT- THEY'LL DROWN! I S'POSE A DOG HAD BETTER DO THE DECENT THING AND SHOOT OUT AND PULL THEM IN...
WAL'! COOCH! YA DOPEY RABBITS, WHERE ARE YA? HANG ON, I'M COMIN'!
OH OH!
SO HELP ME— NEXT TIME I'LL LET TH' BEGGARS DROWN!
Murray Ball.
THE GOAT IS RING-BARKING THE APPLE TREE, I'D BETTER CALL WAL'!
Murray Ball.
YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP!
SHADDUP!
...I'M NOT FLAMIN' BLIND!


GET OUT OF IT YA THIEVIN' BLUEBOTTLE!
BUZZ-ZZ
Murray Ball.
ZUZZ-ZUZZ
CHOMP!
MUNCH! SCRUNCH! CRACKLE! CRUNCH!
ALL PART OF THE SERVICE WAL'.
PLINK!
Murray Ball.
BLURRR...
DAMMIT DOG, I CAN OPEN A FLAMIN' GATE BY MESELF!

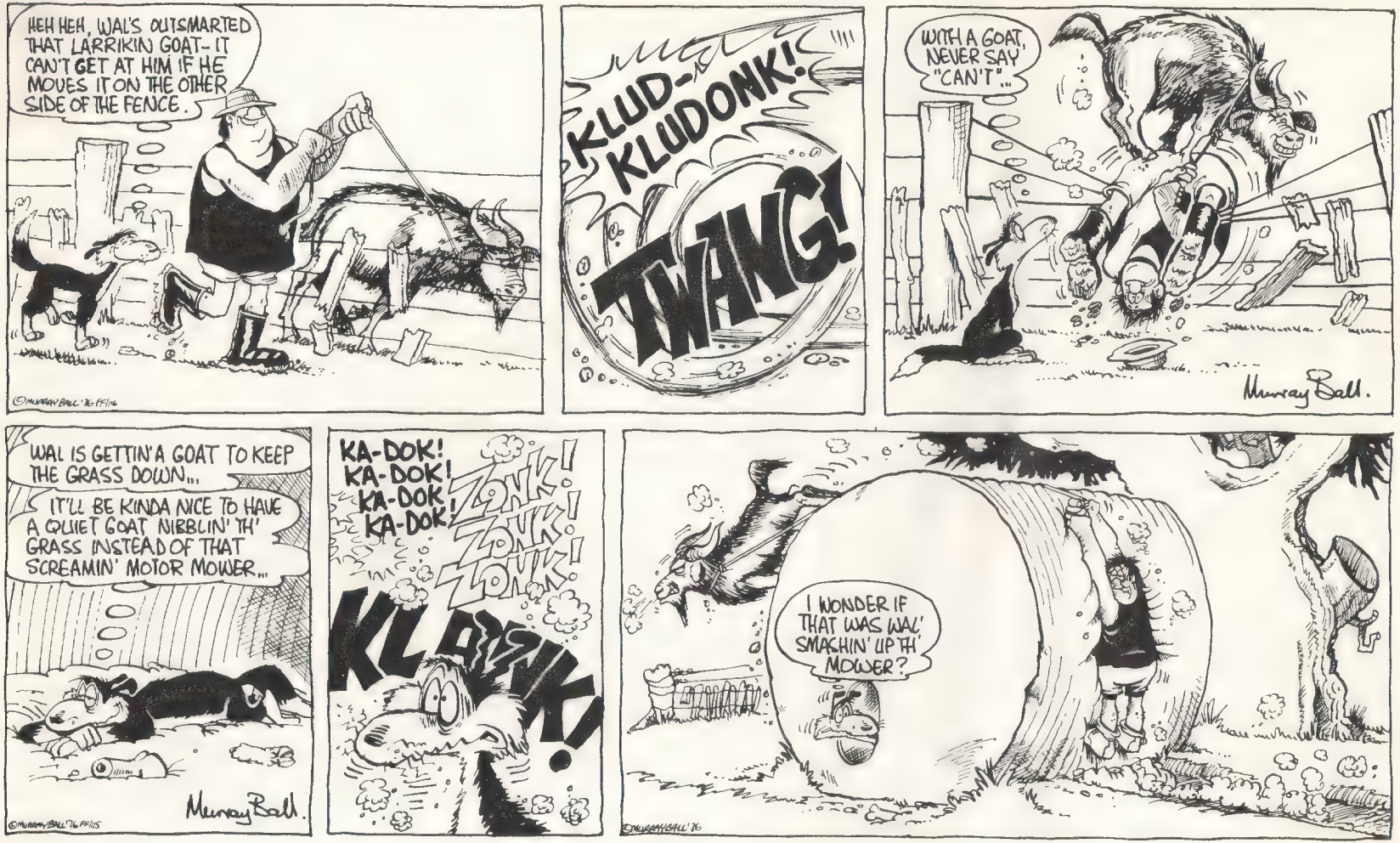

Murray Ball.
VER-ZAAK!
WHYP!
THEY TELL ME IT ALSO STOPS SHEEP.

GIT AWAY AROUND HIM DOG!
HE'S JOKIN', THAT'S A BLOODY BULL!
Murray Ball.
HE'S A KILLER! HOW COULD I MOVE A MONSTER LIKE THAT?
I MEAN THERE IS NO WAY I COULD MOVE IT-NO WAY!
THWAK.
WHY DION'T I THINK OF THAT?

LOOK AT IT! ANOTHER COLD, MISERABLE DAY.
NOTHING BUT MUD, SLUSH AND BOG AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE...
Murray Ball.
SPLUK!
...PERSONALLY I WON'T BE SORRY TO SEE IT CLEAR UP!
WHOA WAL! BE REASONABLE!
Murray Ball.
NOT YET WAL! I'M NOT FINISHED WITH IT YET!
DAMMIT!
HOIK!
...THERE'S STILL A LOT LEFT ON IT!
GNAW! NIBBLE!

STAY DOG!
WHIRRRRRR...
WHAP!
GUDDAY, I WANT TO REPORT AN AMBUSH.

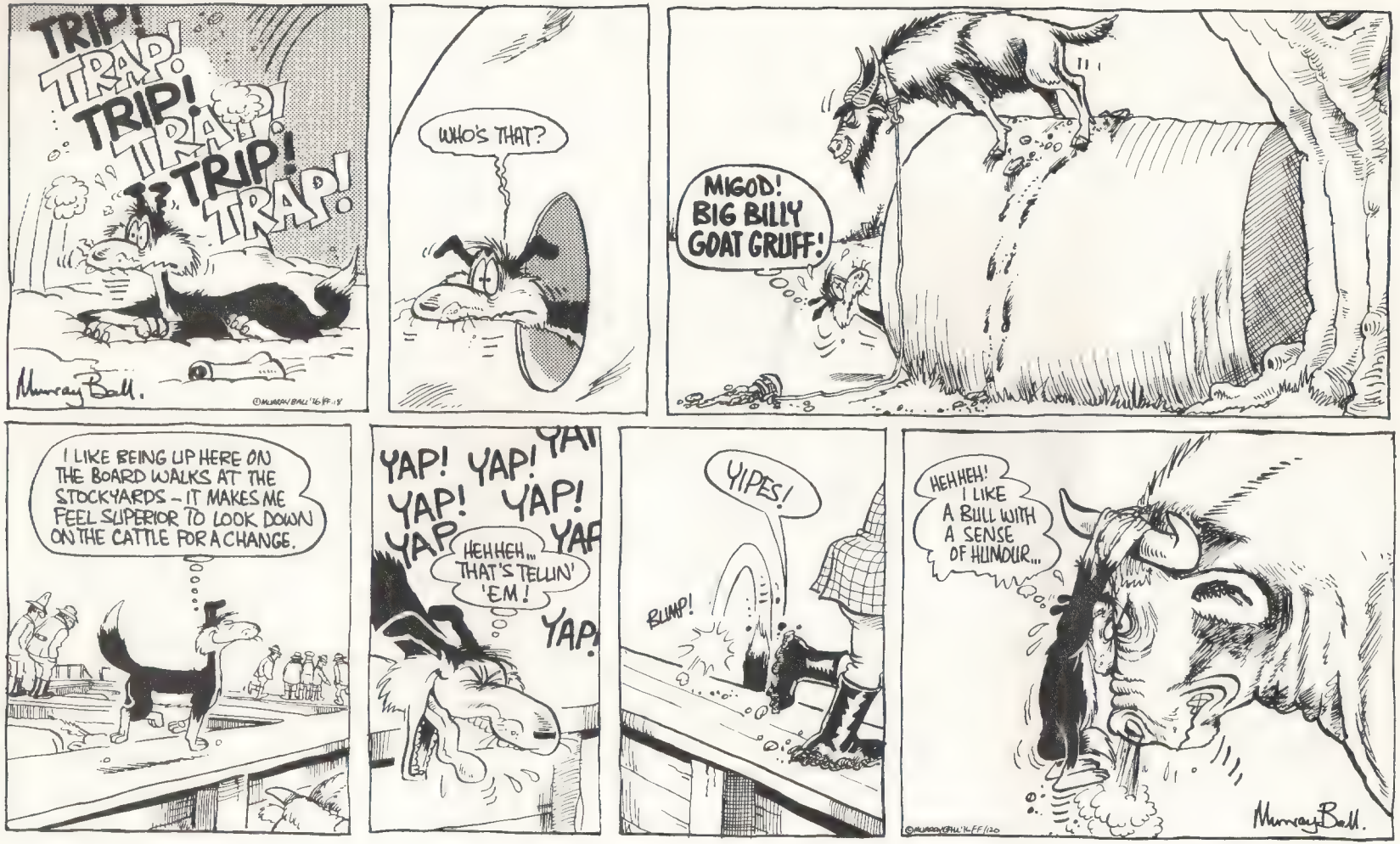
HEY WAL', WHY DO YOU ALWAYS CALL THE DOG 'DOG'? HASN'T HE GOT A NAME?
OH YEH. I GOT HIM FROM ME AUNTY DOLL' IN TAURANGA - SHE NAMED HIM.
YEAH? WHAT'S HIS NAME?
KA-ZANK!
I DUNNO WHETHER I SHOULD TELL YA COOCH - HE'S A BIT SENSITIVE ABOUT IT...


HEH HEH, WAL'S OUTSMARTED THAT LARRIKIN GOAT- IT CAN'T GET AT HIM IF HE MOVES IT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE.
KLUD-KLUDONK!
TWANG!
WITH A GOAT, NEVER SAY "CAN'T"...
Murray Ball.
WAL IS GETTIN' A GOAT TO KEEP THE GRASS DOWN...
IT'LL BE KINDA NICE TO HAVE A QUIET GOAT NIBBLIN' TH' GRASS INSTEAD OF THAT SCREAMIN' MOTOR MOWER...
Murray Ball.
KA-DOK!
KA-DOK!
KA-DOK
KA-DOK!
ZONK!
ZONK!
ZONK!
KLONK!
I WONDER IF THAT WAS WAL SMASHIN' UP TH' MOWER?

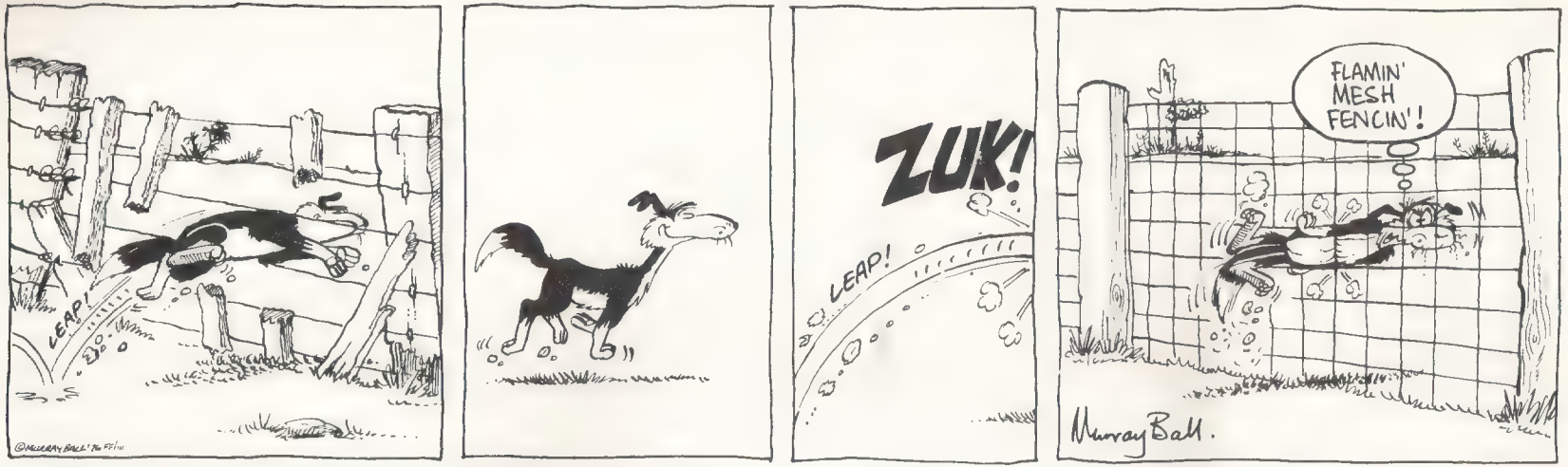
HERE COMES THAT JESS FROM UP THE ROAD!
Murray Ball.
YIP!
YIP!
YIP! YIP! YIP!
©MURRAY BALL 1967
HERE CHOOK!
HERE CHOOK, CHOOK, CHOOK!
HERE CHOOK, CHOOK, CHOOK! HERE CHOOK, CHOOK, CHOOK!
S'FUNNY, IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE CUNNING OLD BEGGAR WAS TIPPED OFF..
...THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL OF FOOTROT FLATS STRIKES AGAIN!

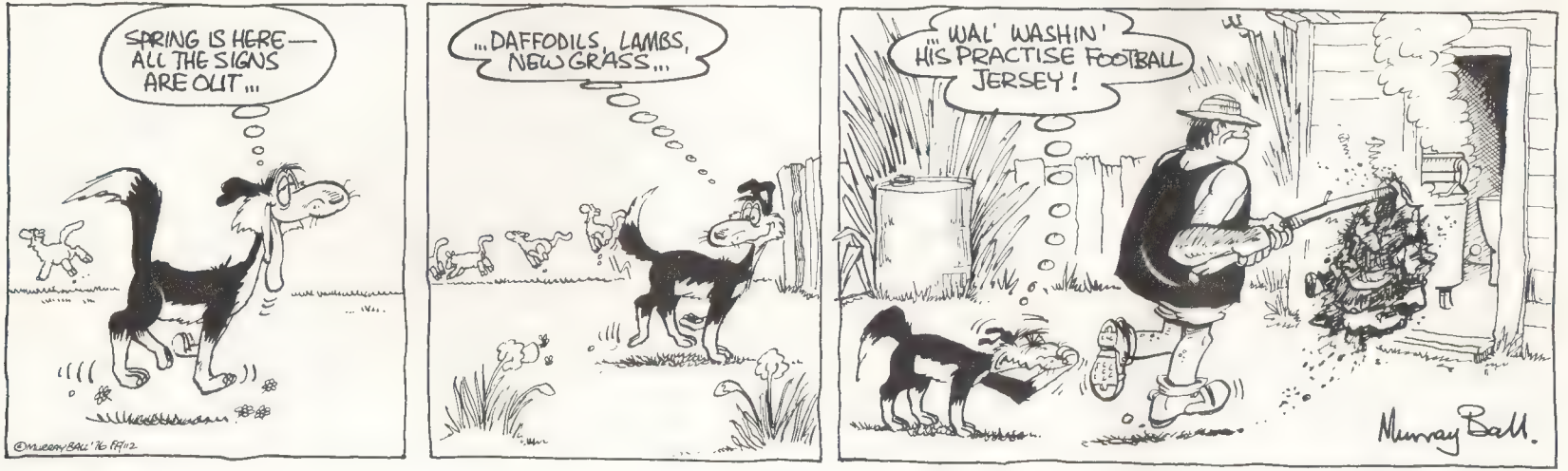
LOOK AT THAT FLAMIN' RAIN, AND ME WITH THE HAY ON THE GROUND!
I'M GONNA HAVE TO GET THAT TURNED QUICK AND LIVELY!
©MURRAY BALL '76
HEH HEH!
SCRUFF! SKRIFF! WHOOSH! SCRUFFLE!
WAL AND HIS SILLY GAMES— FANCY HIDING MY DINNER SOMEWHERE OUT HERE IN THE HAY PADDOCK!
SKRIFF! SCRUFF
Murray Ball
HERE GOOSE, GOOSE, GOOSE! HERE GOOSE!
Murray Ball.
HERE GOOSEY, GOOSEY, GOOSEY! COME AND GET THE CORN GOOSE...
ZAK!
YMPH!
OF COURSE IT GETS MAD - ITS NOT A GOOSE, ITS A GANDER!
©MURRAY BALL '77
FF 131

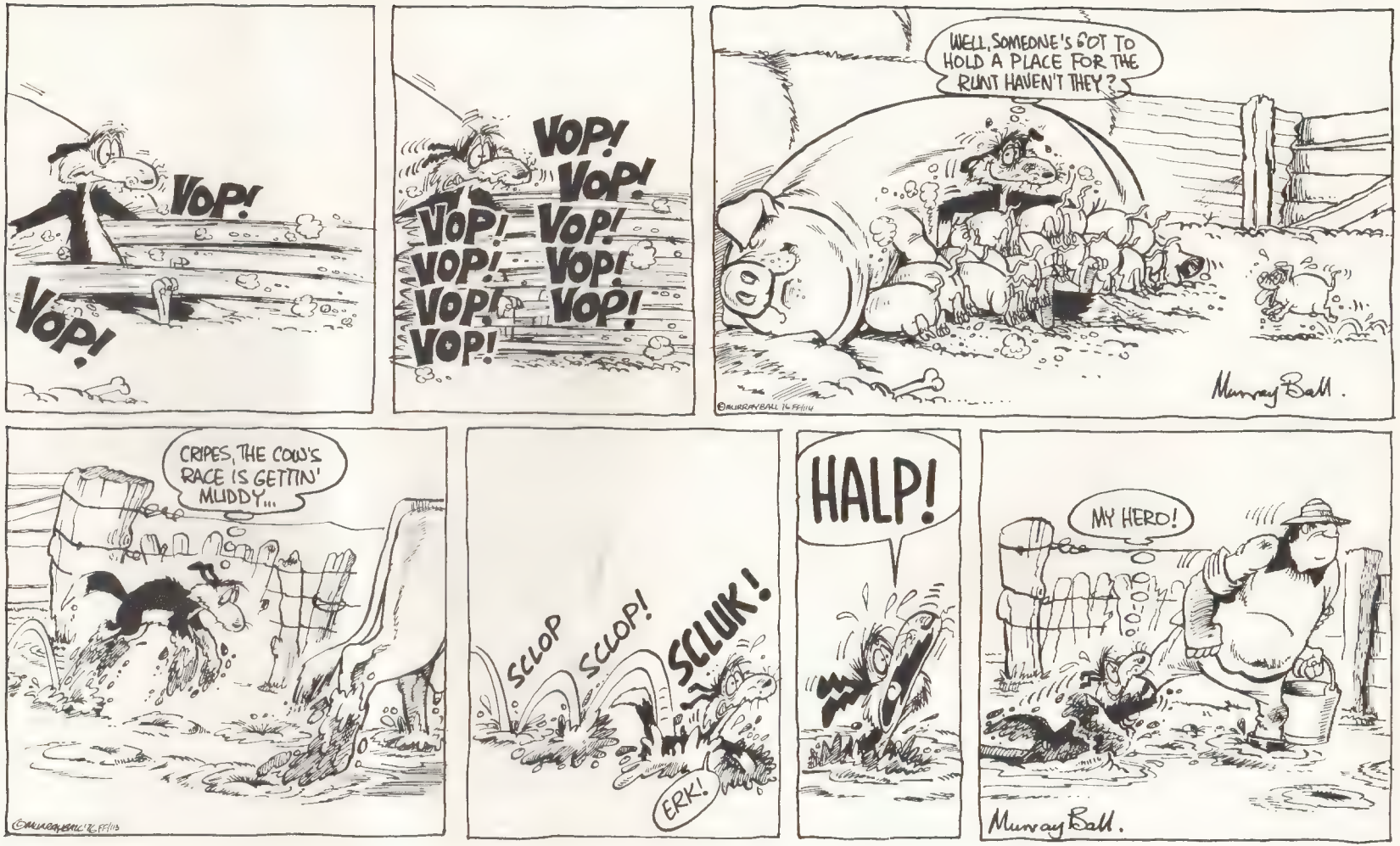
MAW! MOOAW!
HMPH! WHAT A SONG AND DANCE OVER ONE CALF!
©MURRAY BALL 1976 FF/19
OI!
TURN GREEN CASANOVA!
Murray Ball.
I'M GUARDING WAL'S REAR FROM THAT DAMN GANDER...
SIDLE!
SIDE-STEP!
HISS!
YIKES!
©MURRAY BALL 1976. FF/45
YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP!
THANK YOU, HAWKEYE!
Murray Ball.


TRIP!
TRAP!
TRIP!
TRAP!
TRIP!
TRAP!
Murray Ball.
WHO'S THAT?
MIGOD!
BIG BILLY
GOAT GRUFF!
I LIKE BEING UP HERE ON THE BOARD WALKS AT THE STOCKYARDS – IT MAKES ME FEEL SUPERIOR TO LOOK DOWN ON THE CATTLE FOR A CHANGE.
YAP! YAP!
YAP! YAP!
YAP!
HEH HEH... THAT'S TELLIN' 'EM!
YAP!
YIPES!
BUMP!
HEH HEH! I LIKE A BULL WITH A SENSE OF HUMOUR...
Murray Ball.

WAL'S REALLY PUTTING IN A LOT OF RUNNING FOR THE FOOTY SEASON THIS YEAR...
...HIS EFFORTS MAKE ME FEEL QUITE SUPERIOR...
YAPPA-YAPPA-YAPPA-YAPPA-YAPPA-YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! ARF! ARF! YAPPA-YAP!
SNIGGER! SNORTLE!
...WHAT I JUST TOLD HIM MAKES "GET IN BEHIND" SOUND LIKE AN INVITATION TO A VICARAGE TEA-PARTY...
©MURRAY BALL 76
Murray Ball.
DOG!
HEY DOG!
MIGHT HAVE IKNOWN HE'D TAKE OFF WHEN THE GOIN' GOT TOUGH!
OH YEAH? I CAN TAKE IT AS WELL AS THE NEXT BLOKE, MATE!
FF/30
©MURRAY BALL 76
Murray Ball.


LEAP!
ZUK!
LEAP!
FLAMIN' MESH FENCIN'!
Murray Ball.


SPRING IS HERE— ALL THE SIGNS ARE OUT...
...DAFFODILS, LAMBS, NEW GRASS...
...WAL' WASHIN' HIS PRACTISE FOOTBALL JERSEY!
Murray Ball.

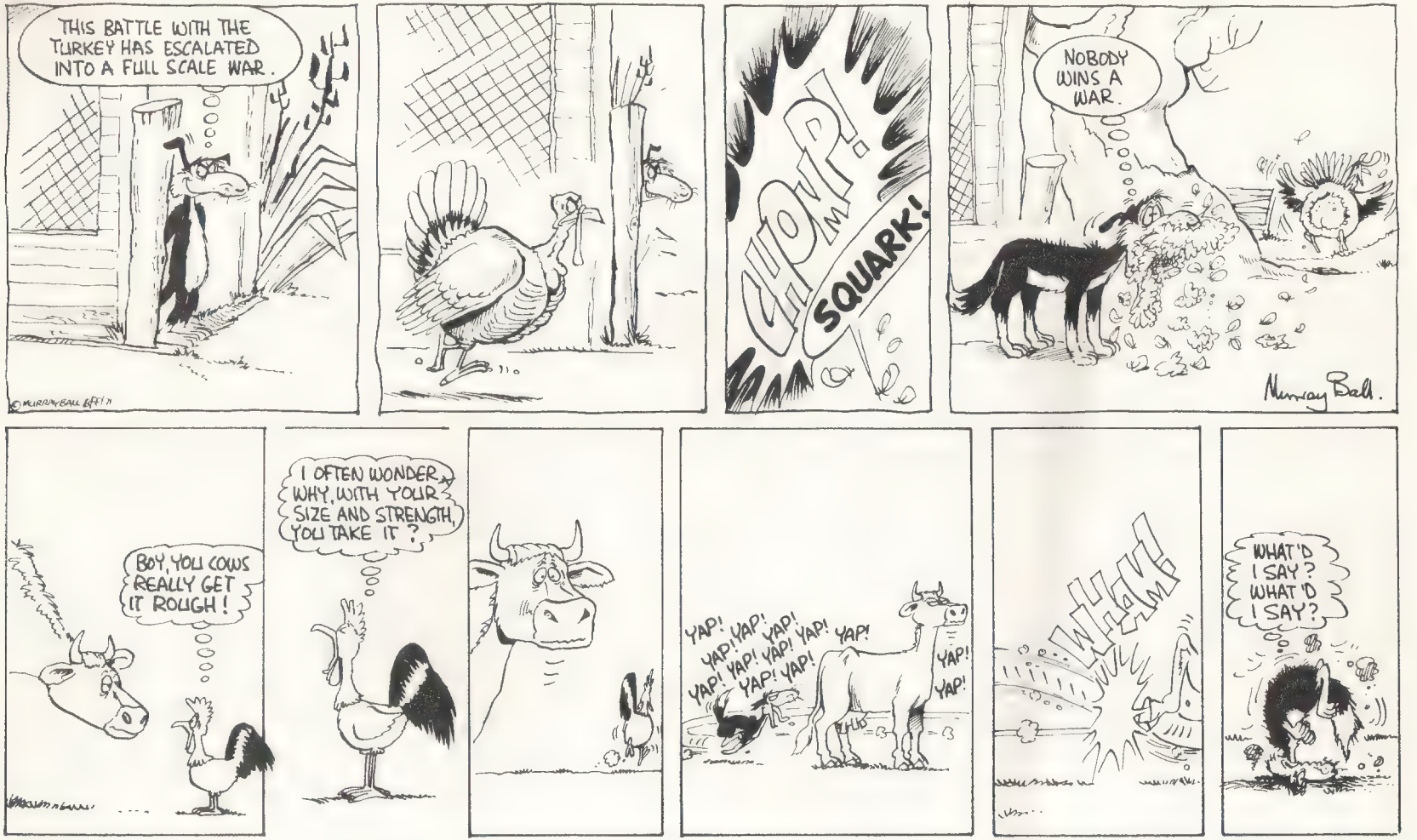

VOP!
VOP!
VOP!
VOP!
VOP!
VOP!
VOP!
VOP!
VOP!
VOP!
WELL, SOMEONE'S GOT TO HOLD A PLACE FOR THE RUNT HAVEN'T THEY?
Murray Ball.
CRIPES, THE COW'S RACE IS GETTIN' MUDDY...
SCLOP
SCLOP!
SCLUK!
ERK!
HALP!
MY HERO!
Murray Ball.

IT'S THE EAST WIND.
CURSE THE EAST WIND!
©MURRAY BALL 76
THE EAST WIND CAN DRIVE A DOG INSANE!
...IT BLOWS STRAIGHT ACROSS FROM THE FREEZING WORKS.
Murray Ball.
©MURRAY BALL 1976 FF/47
SPUKKLE!
THAT'S MY UAL, BIG-HEARTED AND CROSS-EYED!
Murray Ball.

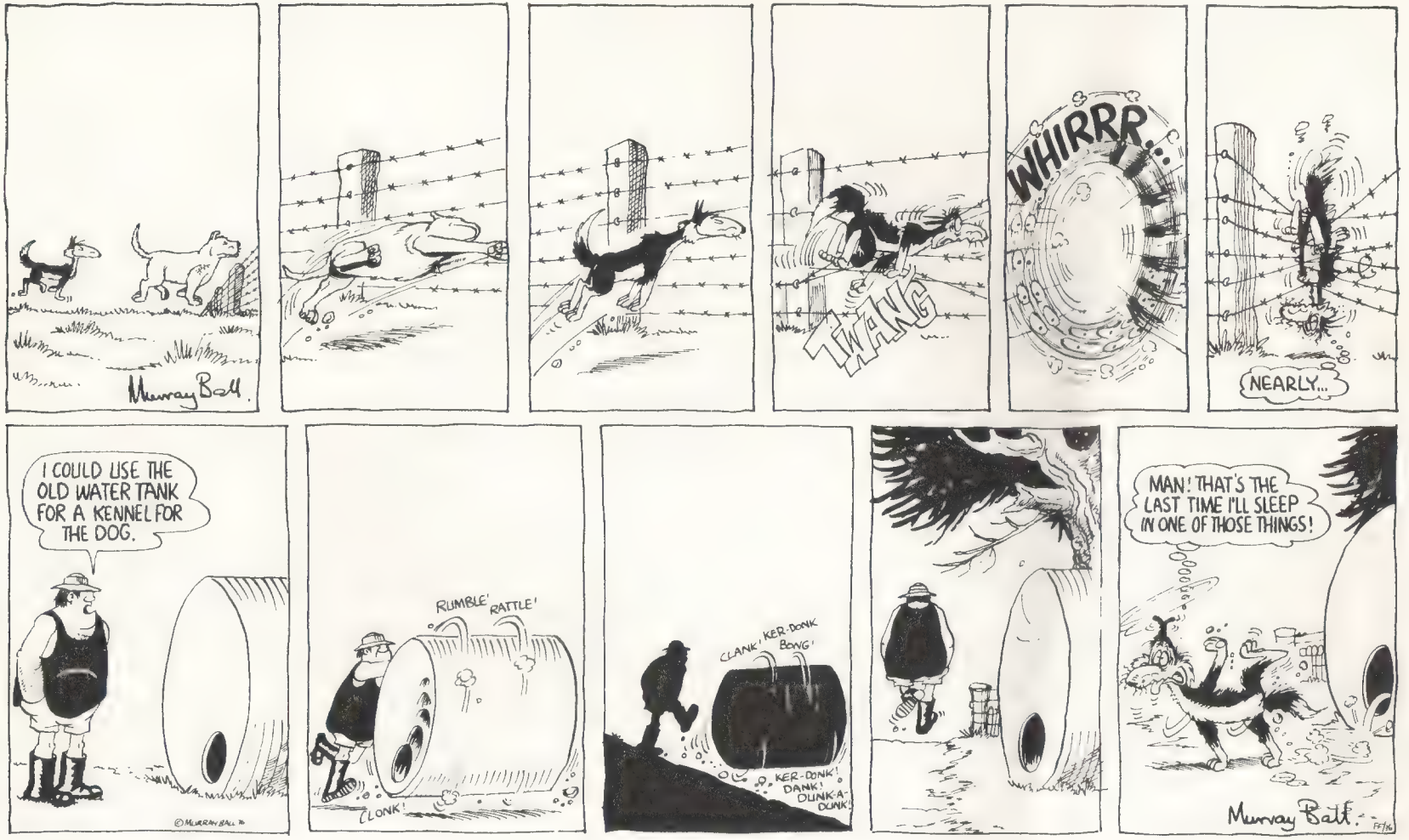
HERE DOG. COME AND GET IT!
SCLOP!
S'FUNNY, USUALLY YA CAN'T KEEP HIM AWAY FROM THE MEAT...
GRAB!
I'M GONNA TIE HIM TO HIS KENNEL BY HIS TONGUE.
SPLIK!
Murray Ball.
THAT SMART ALEC POSSUM KNOWS I CAN'T SHOOT HIM WHILE HE'S SITTING ON OUR RAIN-WATER SPOUTING!
Murray Ball.
GIT UP THERE AND GETTIM DOG!
©MURRAY BALL 1976
GOOD ON YA DOG. YA GOT HIM! NOW TEAR THE BEGGAR TO BITS!
AW SHADDUP!

WHAT HEAT! IT'S LIKE AFRICA!
Murray Ball.
I SUPPOSE IT COULD BE WORSE...
...IF I WAS COMING TO A WATER-HOLE IN AFRICA I COULD QUITE EASILY BE SEIZED BY A LURKING...
©MURRAY BALL
CHOMP!
CROCODILE?
I WONDER IF THE ELECTRIC FENCE IS WORKING?
GO ON DOG, JUST ONE LITTLE TOUCH...
ZAP!
I'D TAKE ANOTHER TWELVE VOLTS ANY DAY TO SEE THAT AGAIN...
Murray Ball.

PERSONALLY I PREFER THE MOTORBIKE...
Murray Ball.
...THE HORSE IS SLOW, BUMPY, SLOPING, ERRATIC, WOBBLY, SWEATY...
SWOT!
...AND GETS NIGGLY!
BUMP!
BUMP!
WAL'S GOIN' PIG-HUNTIN'! C'MON WAL, LET ME COME PIG HUNTIN'!
©MURRAY BALL '78 FFF/80
...AW C'MON WAL'! I'M ROUGH ENOUGH AND TOUGH ENOUGH! AW, C'MON WAL'... I WANNA GO PIG-HUNTIN'! I WANNA GO PIG HUNTIN'!!
I GUESS I'M JUST ONE OF THE NICE GUYS.
Murray Ball.


THIS BATTLE WITH THE TURKEY HAS ESCALATED INTO A FULL SCALE WAR.
©MURRAY BALL EFFT
UP!
SQUARK!
NOBODY WINS A WAR.
Murray Ball.
BOY, YOU COWS REALLY GET IT ROUGH!
I OFTEN WONDER WHY, WITH YOUR SIZE AND STRENGTH, YOU TAKE IT?
YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP!
WHAM
WHAT'D I SAY? WHAT'D I SAY?

GO AWAY BACK DOG. GO AWAY BACK!
GO AWAY AROUND DOG!
PEEP!
COME IN YA DOZY MONGREL!
PEEP! DAMN YOU!
PEEP!
GO AWAY! PEEP!
GO 'WAY BACK!
SPEAK UP DOG, SPEAK UP!
WOOF WOOF.
ZAK!
MADE MORE SENSE THAN THAT FLAMIN' ROW HE'S BEEN MAKING ALL AFTERNOON ANYWAY...
Murray Ball.
I HATE RABBIT SHOOTING! IT BRINGS OUT THE WORST IN WAL'. HE'S A CROOK SHOT, HE HAS NO PATIENCE, NO BUSH-CRAFT...
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
ZOOM!
... AND NO SENSE OF HUMOUR.


Murray Ball
TWANG
WHIRRR...
NEARLY...
I COULD USE THE OLD WATER TANK FOR A KENNEL FOR THE DOG.
©MURRAY BALL 76
RUMBLE' RATTLE'
CLONK!
CLANK' KER-DONK BONG'
KER-DONK! DANK! DUNK-A-DUNK!
MAN! THAT'S THE LAST TIME I'LL SLEEP IN ONE OF THOSE THINGS!
Murray Ball. FF76

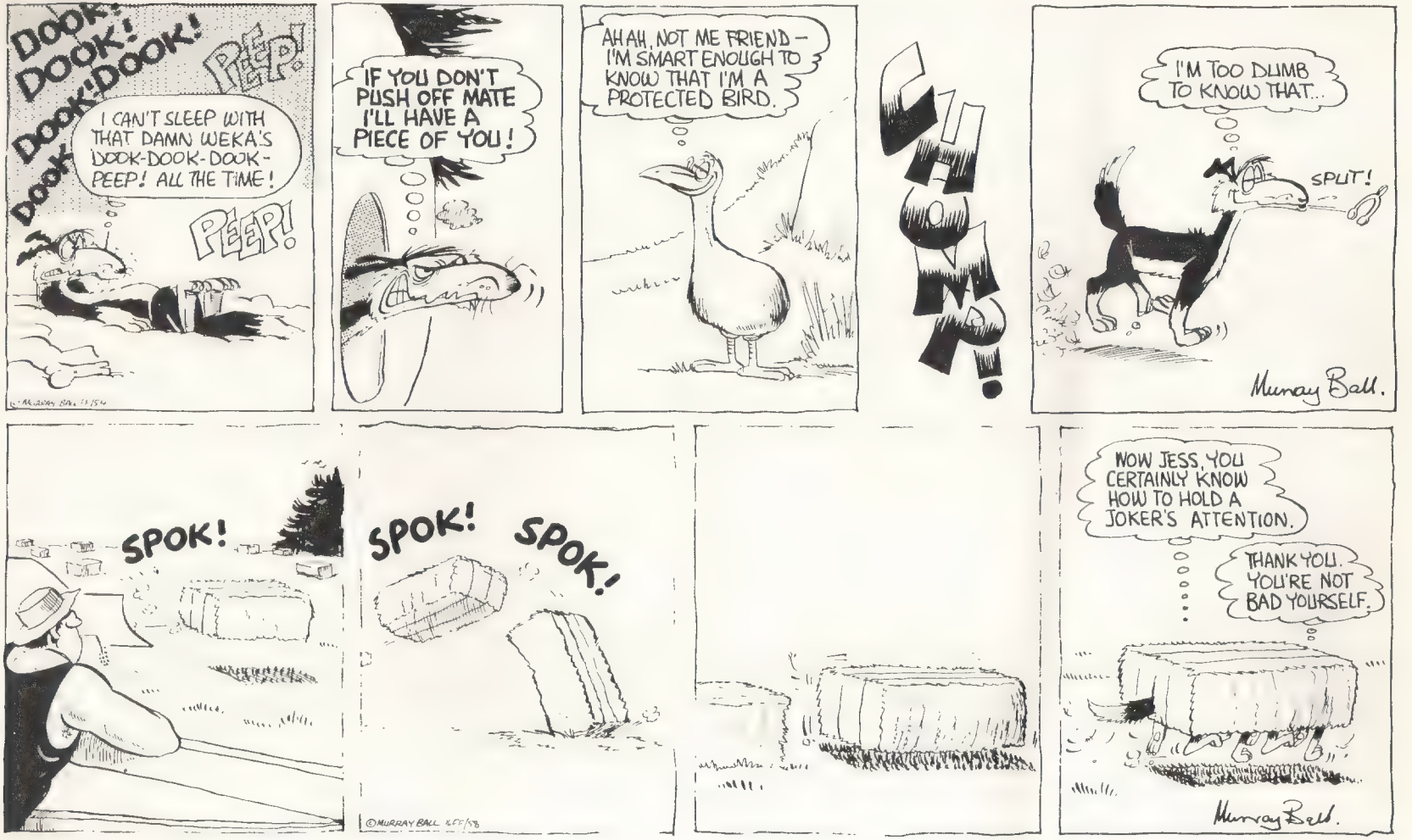
PLIP!
PLOP!
SLOP!
Murray Ball.
EAAGLUGG!
PLOSH
WHICH ISN'T GONNA DO HIM A LOT OF GOOD WHEN I GET MY UNION ORGANISED
GOTTIM!
THE MIRACLE POWER OF THE TRUE EYE-DOG TO HOLD HIS QUARRY BY EYE-POWER ALONE...
...RIGHTO SHEEP, YOU ARE IN MY POWER...
IN MY POWER...
WHACK!
I SHOULD HAVE BIT THE BEGGAR!
Murray Ball.

Murray Ball.
AR THERE PETER PAN, OL' CAP'N HOOK HAS HIS EYE ON YE!
BLUSH!
HEH HEH.
WHERE ARE YOU, NOW YOU ARE NEEDED, PETER PAN?
MID AUTUMN IS AN IDLE TIME FOR ME.
©MURRAY BALL '76 FFS 2.
KER-DOK! KER-DOK! KER-DOK! KER-DOK!
IT'S WAL'S GET-FIT TIME FOR THE FOOTY SEASON.
Murray Ball.

HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
KLUD!
©MURRAY BALL 76 FF161
HEY! WE'RE ONE SHORT HERE!
THERE'S A LOT OF SATISFACTION IN A JOB WELL DONE...
©MURRAY BALL 76
... THEN HOME TO SOME GOOD TUCKER AND A WARM BED...
FF141
VROOM!
ZOK!
I'LL GIVE HIM FIVE MORE MINUTES, THEN I QUIT!
Murray Ball.

I S'POSE A JOKER IS A BIT HARD ON THE OLD DOG AT TIMES. I'M REALLY QUITE FOND OF HIM IN ME OWN WAY...
GOOD ON YA DOG!
SCRATCH! SCRITCH!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!
YA MANGY FLEA-BAG!
SPLISH! SPLOSH! SPLUK!
CRIPES! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THEM EAR-TAGGING CALVES?
Murray Bell.

I ALWAYS FIND IT RESTFUL JUST SITTIN' HERE MILKIN' TH' COW...
©MURRAY BALL '76 '194
Z
HULLO, THERE'S BUTTERCUP BUT WHERE'S WAL'?
WHO SAYS WE'RE NOT MAN'S BEST FRIEND?
Z
Murray Ball.
THAT BEGGAR HASN'T BEEN DUCKED...
MISSED!
SHE'S RIGHT WAL'...
Murray Ball.
...GOT HER.
SPLOK!


DOOK! DOOK! DOOK-DOOK! DOOK!
PEEP!
I CAN'T SLEEP WITH THAT DAMN WEKA'S DOOK-DOOK-DOOK-PEEP! ALL THE TIME!
PEEP!
IF YOU DON'T PUSH OFF MATE I'LL HAVE A PIECE OF YOU!
AH AH, NOT ME FRIEND — I'M SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT I'M A PROTECTED BIRD.
HMM!
I'M TOO DUMB TO KNOW THAT..
SPUT!
Murray Ball.
SPOK!
SPOK!
SPOK!
©MURRAY BALL
NOW JESS, YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO HOLD A JOKER'S ATTENTION.
THANK YOU. YOU'RE NOT BAD YOURSELF.
Murray Ball.

Murray Ball.
WHIZZ...
SKREECH!
MEAN BEGGAR!
THERE'S A DEAD SHEEP IN THE BACK PADDOCK!
CHOMP!
VROOM!
YOU'VE GOTTA ADMIRE HIS GREED DON'T YA?
Murray Ball.

COOCH'S FLAMIN' GOAT THINKS I CAN'T GET AT HIM BECAUSE HE'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CREEK!
YUKKA-YUKKA YUK!
GOT YA!
ZAK!
GNUNK!
THEY DON'T HAVE WAL AND ME ON TWICE. NO SIR!
Murray Ball.
©MURRAY BALL '76 FF 51
I'VE HEARD WAL'S BROTHER HAS BROUGHT HIS BULLDOG WITH HIM — I'VE NEVER SEEN A BULLDOG...
SHEEPDOGS I'VE HEARD OF, PIGDOGS I'VE HEARD OF BUT WHAT SORT OF MAD DOG WORKS WITH BULLS?
CRIPES!
ZIP!
A BULL HAS STOMPED TH' POOR BEGGAR'S FACE IN!
Murray Ball.
©MURRAY BALL '76 FF 51

I WONDER WHAT WAL' IS DOING?
Murray Ball.
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE NOSY...
...BUT I JUST CAN'T BEAR NOT KNOWING WHAT IS GOING ON...
SPRUNK!
...DOCKING!
©MURRAY BALL '76 FF13
HEY COOCH, I THOUGHT YOU PUT THE SKIN OF THIS EWE'S DEAD LAMB ON THIS ONE SO THAT THE OLD GIRL WOULD TAKE HER?
YEH, I DID.
©MURRAY BALL '76 FF13
Murray Ball.
...WELL, IT'S GONE.
THAT'S FUNNY, I WONDER WHERE THAT GOT TO?
♫ I'M SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, JUST SINGIN' IN THE RAIN... ♫

YAP!
YAP!
ARF!
ARF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
Murray Ball.
LOOK FELLAS, IF I DIDN'T DO IT, SOMEONE ELSE WOULD.
WE EYE-DOGS HAVE OUR PRIDE...
Murray Ball.
... BRED INTO OUR VERY BONES IS THE DESIRE TO EXERT OUR WILL OVER OTHER ANIMALS!
© MURRAY BALL LTD '89
ZIT!
THE SECRET IS NOT TO BLINK.

HEY WAL, THERE'S A WILD BOAR JUST BROKEN OUT OF THE BUSH IN THE RIVER PADDOCK!
YEH?
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO SHOW WAL THAT I CAN BE A PIG DOG!
VROOM!
CRIPES!
I WOULDN'T WANT TO KNUCKLE IN ON YOUR TERRITORY BORIS...
Murray Ball.
Murray Ball.
TAP-TAP-ATAP! TAP-A-TAP
I HAD 'EM IN THE PALM OF MY HAND WAL', THE PALM OF MY HAND!

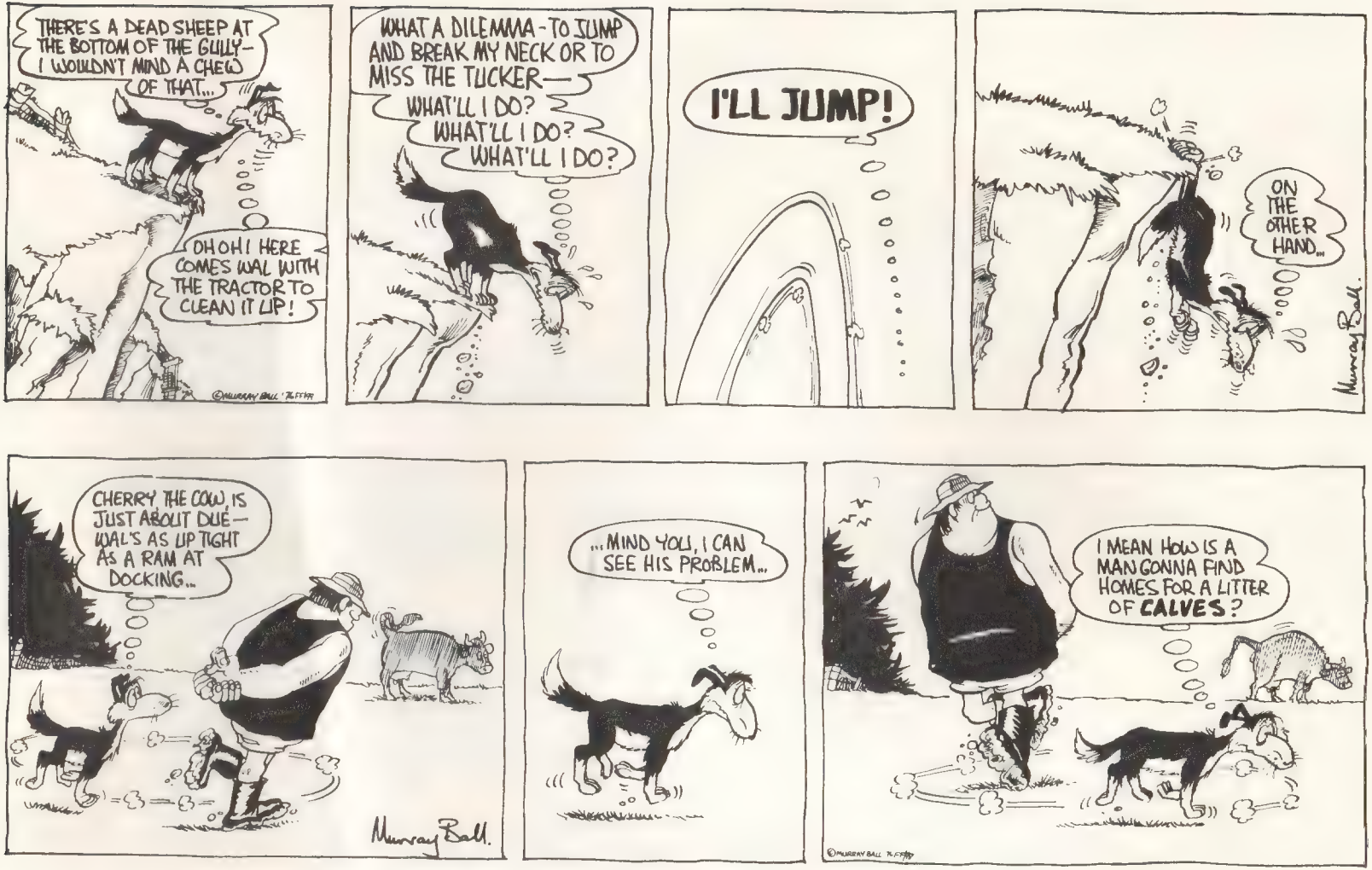
IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IT'D BE SNOWING NOW...
...I'VE NEVER SEEN SNOW. THEY RECKON IT'S SOFT, WHITE, POWDERY STUFF THAT FALLS FROM THE SKY...
VROOM!
ERK!
HERE WE CALL THAT SORT OF THING, "FERTILISER."
I TAKE IT YA DON'T WANT ME TO SHOOT THE POSSUM DOG?
OKAY MATE COME ON DOWN.
SCRUFF!
COME BACK WITH ME GUN DOG...
Murray Ball.

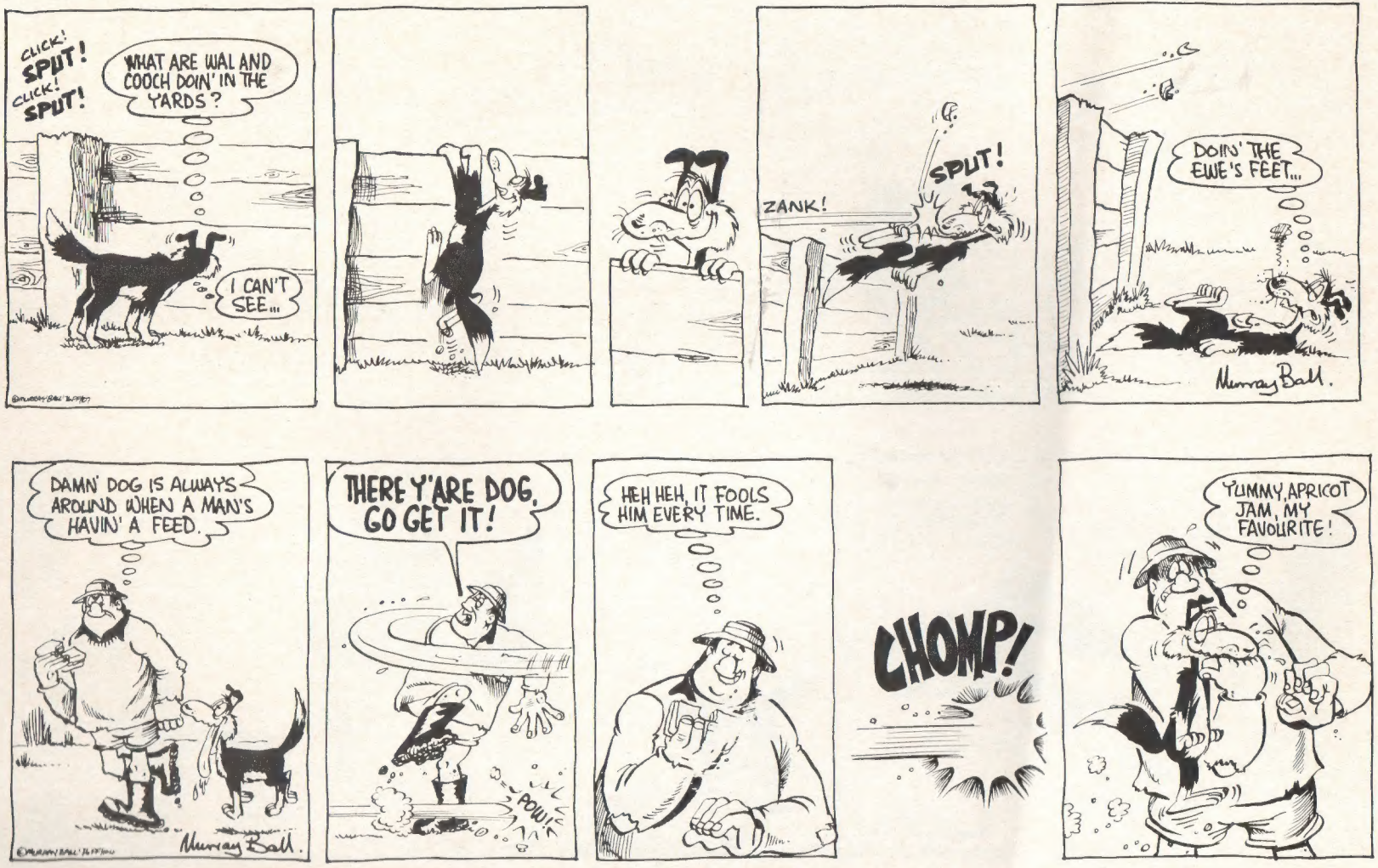
HEY, THERE'S A HAWK AFTER THAT WEAK LAMB! GET AWAY AFTER IT DOG!
RIGHTO WAL'!
SPRANG!
WHAT TH...?
OI! COME BACK HERE YA COWARDLY, SPINELESS, CHICKEN-HEARTED...
ZOOM!
...CUNNIN', OLD BASKET!
Murray Ball.
IF THERE IS ONE THING I REALLY ENJOY IT'S ROLLING IN THE CRUTCHINGS...
GIT OUT OF IT YA STINKIN' RATBAG!
KLAK!
"RATBAG", YES. "STINKIN'"? THAT'S A MATTER OF OPINION!
Murray Ball.

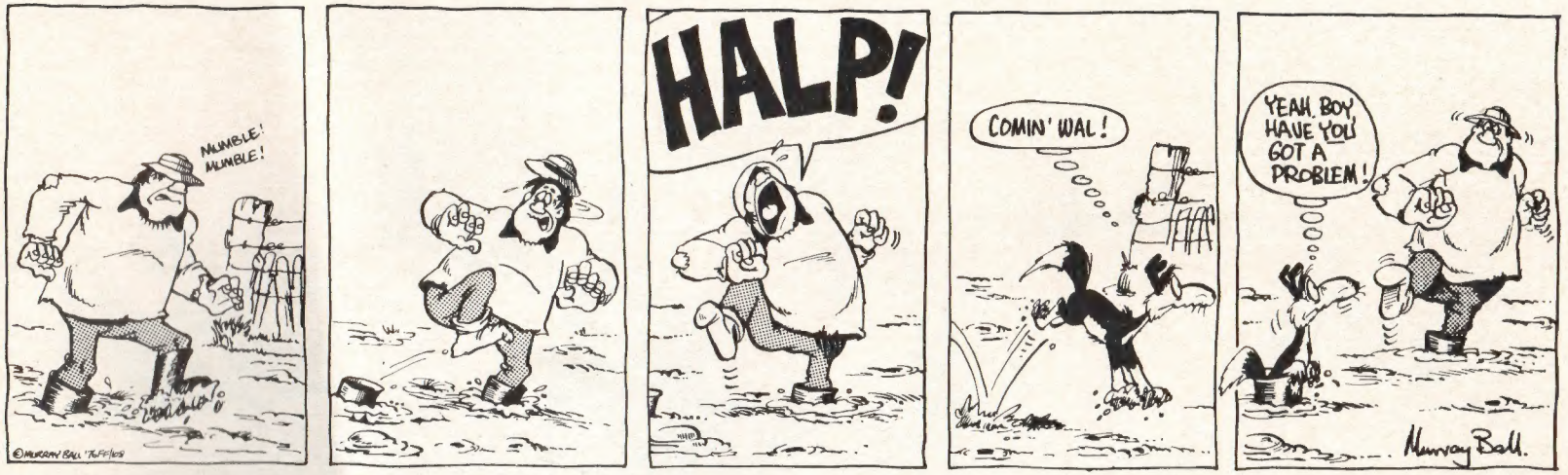
OH BOY, WAL'S GOT THE PIGS OUT IN THE SIDE PADDOCK- I'LL HAVE A GO AT THEIR TUCKER WHILE THEY ARE AWAY...
OH OH!
YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT TO ME WOULD YOU WAL? NAH, NOT GOOD 'OL' WAL...
OIK! OIK! OIK!
YIKE!
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE GOOD OL' WAL!
Murray Ball.
HEY WAL, YOUR BULL'S GONE OVER THE FENCE INTO THE HEIFER PADDOCK!
GET AWAY THERE DOG AND HOLD IT OFF UNTIL WE GET THERE!
SPANG!
ZOOM!
I MAY BE WILLING BUT I'M NOT STUPID!
Murray Ball.

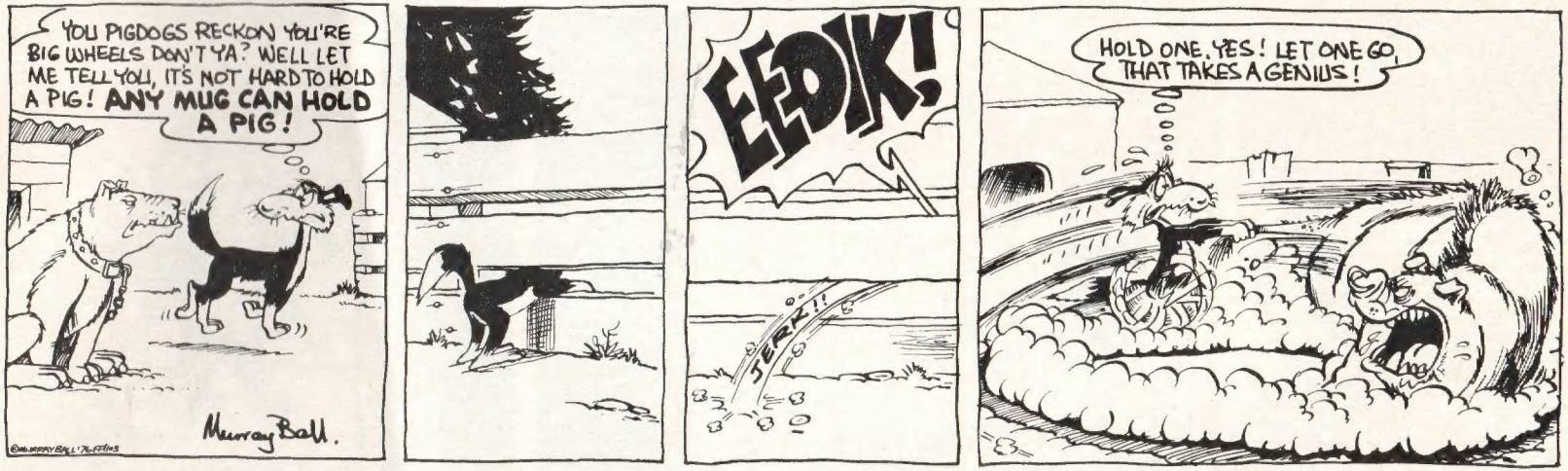
WHAT A NIGHT! POURING DOWN AND FREEZING – AND OUR FIRST SET OF LAMBS JUST BORN!
HOW CAN THAT HARD-HEARTED OLD RATBAG, WAL, SLEEP WHILE THOSE BABIES ARE OUT IN THIS?
IT'S NO GOOD – I'LL HAVE TO GO AND SEE IF THEY ARE ALL RIGHT...
I COULD BITE MY TONGUE OFF!
Murray Ball.
HELL, I'VE LEFT ME LUNCH IN THE WOOLSHED WITH THE DOG!
BY CRIPES DOG, YA HAVEN'T BEEN AT ME TUCKER HAVE YA?
Murray Ball.
HEH HEH, NOT ME WAL – YOU KNOW ME...

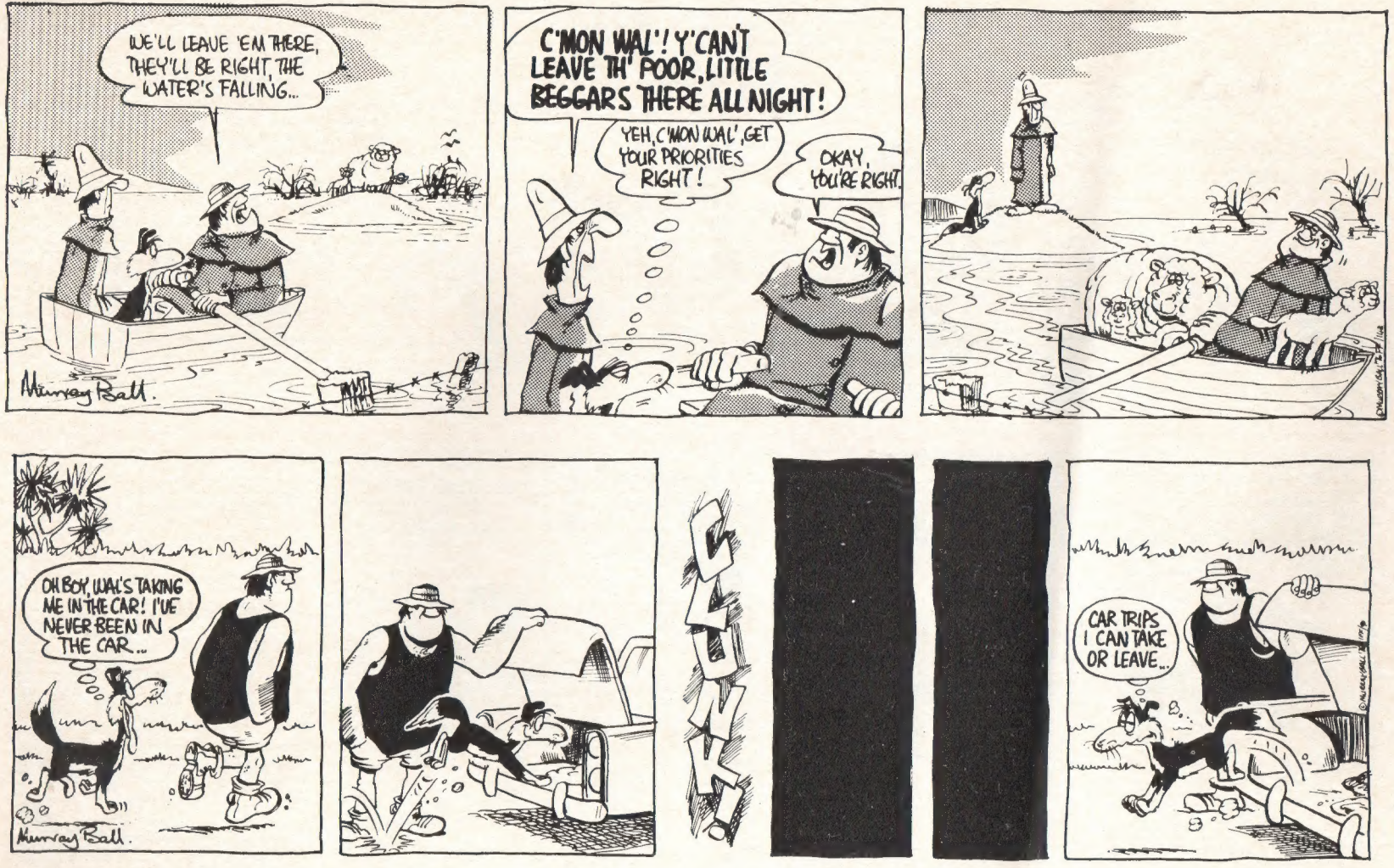
GRRRR!
GRR.
Murray Ball.
GRRRRRR!
C'MON DOG!
GRRRRRR!
CLUNK!
BY CRIPES, YOU'RE LUCKY I'VE GOT TO GO, BLISTER!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THAT BEAST CARCASS HAS BEEN LIFTED!
Murray Ball.
IT'S GOTTA BE TH' DOG, BUT IT CAN'T BE! NO FLAMIN' DOG COULD GET RID OF SIX HUNDREDWEIGHT OF BULLOCK CARCASS!
HEH HEH, NEVER UNDER ESTIMATE THE CUNNING OF A GOOD DOG WAL..
©MURRAY BALL 76FF109


THERE'S A DEAD SHEEP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GULLY— I WOULDN'T MIND A CHEW OF THAT...
OH OH! HERE COMES WAL WITH THE TRACTOR TO CLEAN IT UP!
©MURRAY BALL '76 FFFF
WHAT A DILEMMA - TO JUMP AND BREAK MY NECK OR TO MISS THE TUCKER—
WHAT'LL I DO?
WHAT'LL I DO?
WHAT'LL I DO?
I'LL JUMP!
ON THE OTHER HAND...
Murray Ball.
CHERRY THE COW, IS JUST ABOUT DUE— WAL'S AS UP TIGHT AS A RAM AT DOCKING...
Murray Ball.
...MIND YOU, I CAN SEE HIS PROBLEM...
I MEAN HOW IS A MAN GONNA FIND HOMES FOR A LITTER OF CALVES?
©MURRAY BALL '76 FFFF


CLICK! SPUT! CLICK! SPUT!
WHAT ARE WAL AND COOCH DOIN' IN THE YARDS?
I CAN'T SEE...
ZANK!
SPUT!
DOIN' THE EWE'S FEET...
Murray Ball.
DAMN' DOG IS ALWAYS AROUND WHEN A MAN'S HAVIN' A FEED.
Murray Ball.
THERE Y'ARE DOG, GO GET IT!
POW!!
HEH HEH, IT FOOLS HIM EVERY TIME.
CHOMP!
YUMMY, APRICOT JAM, MY FAVOURITE!


MUMBLE! MUMBLE!
HALP!
COMIN' WAL!
YEAH, BOY HAVE YOU GOT A PROBLEM!
Murray Ball.


YOU PIGDOGS RECKON YOU'RE BIG WHEELS DON'T YA? WELL LET ME TELL YOU, IT'S NOT HARD TO HOLD A PIG! ANY MUG CAN HOLD A PIG!
Murray Ball.
EEOK!
SERK!!
HOLD ONE, YES! LET ONE GO, THAT TAKES A GENIUS!


WE'LL LEAVE 'EM THERE, THEY'LL BE RIGHT, THE WATER'S FALLING...
Murray Ball.
C'MON WAL'! Y'CAN'T LEAVE TH' POOR, LITTLE BEGGARS THERE ALL NIGHT!
YEH, C'MON WAL', GET YOUR PRIORITIES RIGHT!
OKAY, YOU'RE RIGHT.
OH BOY, WAL'S TAKING ME IN THE CAR! I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THE CAR...
Murray Ball.
CLUNK
CAR TRIPS I CAN TAKE OR LEAVE..

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